



# THE NOE VALLEY VOICE

## Leno Talks About Money, Power, Dogs, Monsters, and Sex-Change Operations

By Kathy Dalle-Molle

On a rainy Friday afternoon in early February, the City Hall office of District 8 Supervisor Mark Leno is swamped—with e-mails, phone calls, faxes. A steady stream of volunteers, aides, and visitors flows in and out of the reception area. KPIX reporter Lance Williams drops by to chat with one of Leno's aides about the energy-related legislation the supervisor will introduce on Monday.

I'm taking it all in, and all of a sudden I find myself wanting to shout, "Is everybody having fun?" That's because, perhaps surprisingly, it seems as if they are.

In between taking phone calls from a Democratic Club member who wants a response to his e-mail and another constituent who insists that Leno said he would meet with him, volunteer Mike Brockman, a self-admitted film addict, offers up movie reviews quicker than you can say Roger Ebert. *The House of Mirth*, *Panic*, and *You Can Count on Me* are all



District 8 Supervisor Mark Leno gave the Voice a half hour of face time in February, on topics ranging from his re-election, to medical benefits for transgender employees. Photo by Beverly Tharp

must-sees, he says.

Just as Brockman is telling me that he is "still haunted" by *Count on Me*, Leno's aide Nathan Purkiss enters the room in jeans and a T-shirt. He gives Brockman a stack of invitations that Leno has accepted and asks him to enter the dates and times in the computer.

"It looks like you guys are having fun," I say to Purkiss.

"You should be here at 11 o'clock at night," he responds, as if that's when the place really starts jumping.

But what else would you expect from the office of the supervisor who has ut-

tered San Francisco's best quote of the year thus far? "Since when is the Jewish homosexual who advocates for transgender rights and medical cannabis the conservative in the race?" Leno joked at the supervisors' first meeting in January.

Though Leno's staff might yuck it up a bit, they still command a pretty tight ship. Half-hour appointments are scheduled back to back, with Leno running about 10 minutes behind for his interview with the Voice.

The newly elected supervisor for Noe

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## 'Green House' In Upper Noe Is a Real Turn-on

By Heidi Anderson

California's acute power crisis, which has hit Noe Valley with rolling blackouts and soaring PG&E bills over the past two months, has awakened an energy conscience in many residents. Some are changing their light bulbs, turning their water heaters down, and cleaning the coils on the back of their refrigerators. Others are seriously considering an alternative energy source for their homes.

Steve, a resident of Upper Noe Valley for 20 years, smiles warmly and nods at this news. You could say he's got the alternative energy thing covered.

Or rather, it's covering him. On the roof of his home and within his walls are structures that not only collect energy in alternative ways but also make better use of that energy.

Steve would prefer to go by his first name because he's a bit leery of publicity these days. Several people who've noticed the windmills perched on his roof have knocked on his door to ask for a tour. He doesn't mind sharing information about his windmills and solar panels, but he'd rather not become a regular stop on

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## Big Dogs Face Ostracism

### Public Wary After Mauling Tragedy

By Steve Steinberg

It's not easy being the owner of a large dog in Noe Valley these days. You sometimes get the impression that people are avoiding you and your dog, or shrinking in fear when you walk down the street.

Your impression may be correct. Ever since the horrific Jan. 26 incident where two huge Presa Canario dogs attacked and mauled to death Diane Whipple in the corridor of her Pacific Heights apartment building, many people have had a sea change in their attitude toward large dogs.

"People are edgy as hell," says professional dog walker Louis Olds of Fog City Dog Walking. Olds, who sometimes walks as many as six good-size dogs down 24th Street, says that within days of the tragedy, "you could tell that people were freaked out about dogs." He adds that "some even huddle against the wall" when he and his dogs pass by.

Frank, a 24th Street resident who preferred not to give his last name, says he has seen parents clutch their children at the sight of his 4-year-old Weimaraner, Sasha. Before the fatal attack on Whipple, kids used to run up to pet Sasha, he says. Now Frank goes out of his way to

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Louis Olds of Fog City Dog Walking lets his charges pause for refreshment in Downtown Noe Valley, where he's found people "seriously freaked out" about big canines. Photo by Steve Steinberg

## Merchants Hyperventilating Over PG&E Bills

By Heidi Anderson

Many Noe Valley merchants had to take a deep breath when they opened their PG&E bills last month.

Those who own laundromats and restaurants might even have had to lie down for a minute. Their businesses are among the highest users of energy, and most were confronted in January with a gas and electricity bill that was double what it was in December.

Eva Skoufis, who manages the Coin-Op Laundry at Church and Day streets, reports that her January bill soared to more than \$3,000.

Skoufis says she had no choice but to raise washing machine prices from \$1.50 to \$1.75. A quarter once could buy 10 minutes in the dryer. Now it's been shaved down to eight.

"My customers are being nice about it," Skoufis says, "but they may start going to another laundry that hasn't raised the prices yet."

She's also noticed that her patrons are overloading their washers to save a quarter or two. "Some of their clothes aren't even getting properly wet!" she laments.

Skoufis isn't shy, and she's been working the phones to get help for her problem.

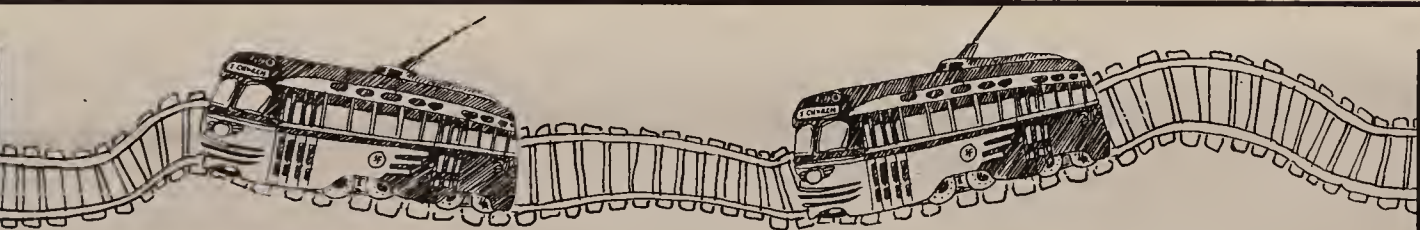
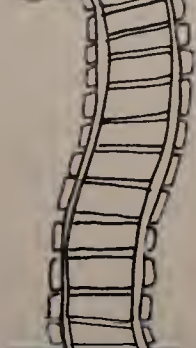
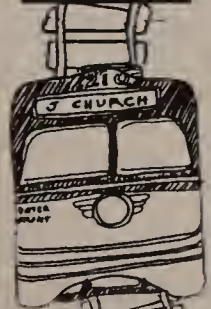
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She moved it—and parked it. Here's the eco- and pedestrian-friendly mode of travel for 3-year-olds—nicely put away and ready to ride again after a nap on 23rd Street.

Photo by Pamela Gerard



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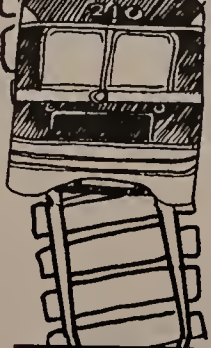
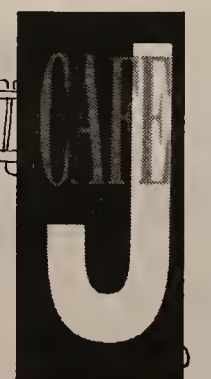
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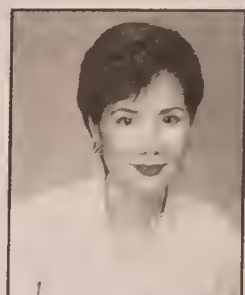


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# A Sit-Down Chat With Supervisor Mark Leno

Continued from Page 1

Valley, the Castro, Glen Park, Diamond Heights, and two or three other neighborhoods invites me into his expansive (at least by city government standards) office, which with its neat hipness looks more like the workspace of a SOMA architect or designer than a member of city government. We chat for our allotted half hour on issues ranging from dogs to transgender health benefits to his allergy to the air freshener in the mayor's Town Car.

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**Voice:** When I was driving to our appointment, this silly song kept running through my head—Carol Burnett's sign-off song, modified slightly, from her old variety show: "It seems we just get started, and before you know it ... it's time to run for re-election again."

In the lottery taken among the supervisors for the four-year and two-year seats, you got a two-year seat. Are you already working to gather momentum for your run in 2002?

**Leno:** Well, I'm such a compulsive worker that I've never really stopped running for anything, and I really think the best campaign is the way one does one's job. I was elected citywide in 1998, knowing I was going to have to run again in the spring of 2000—just a year and a half later. I've never felt like the running has stopped.

**Voice:** What's a typical day like in your office? Your staff told me that since district elections, your office has been even busier than before.

**Leno:** It's true. It's nonstop work. I feel fortunate that I'm a single guy right now. This job actually comes at a good time in my life. My partner died back in 1990, and I've been single since, so I don't keep anyone waiting at home. I have the utmost respect for public officials who do this kind of work and keep up a relationship and a family. I don't know how I would do it. I love the fact that I get to put 70, 80 hours a week into this job.

Also, because Prop. B failed, we had to relinquish one of our three aides. It really is bordering on manic around here, very intense. We're talking about dealing with hundreds of phone calls, e-mails, and faxes every day. And people expect quick responses. No one in my office complains. It's just a fact.

**Voice:** Do you still own your small business, Budget Signs?

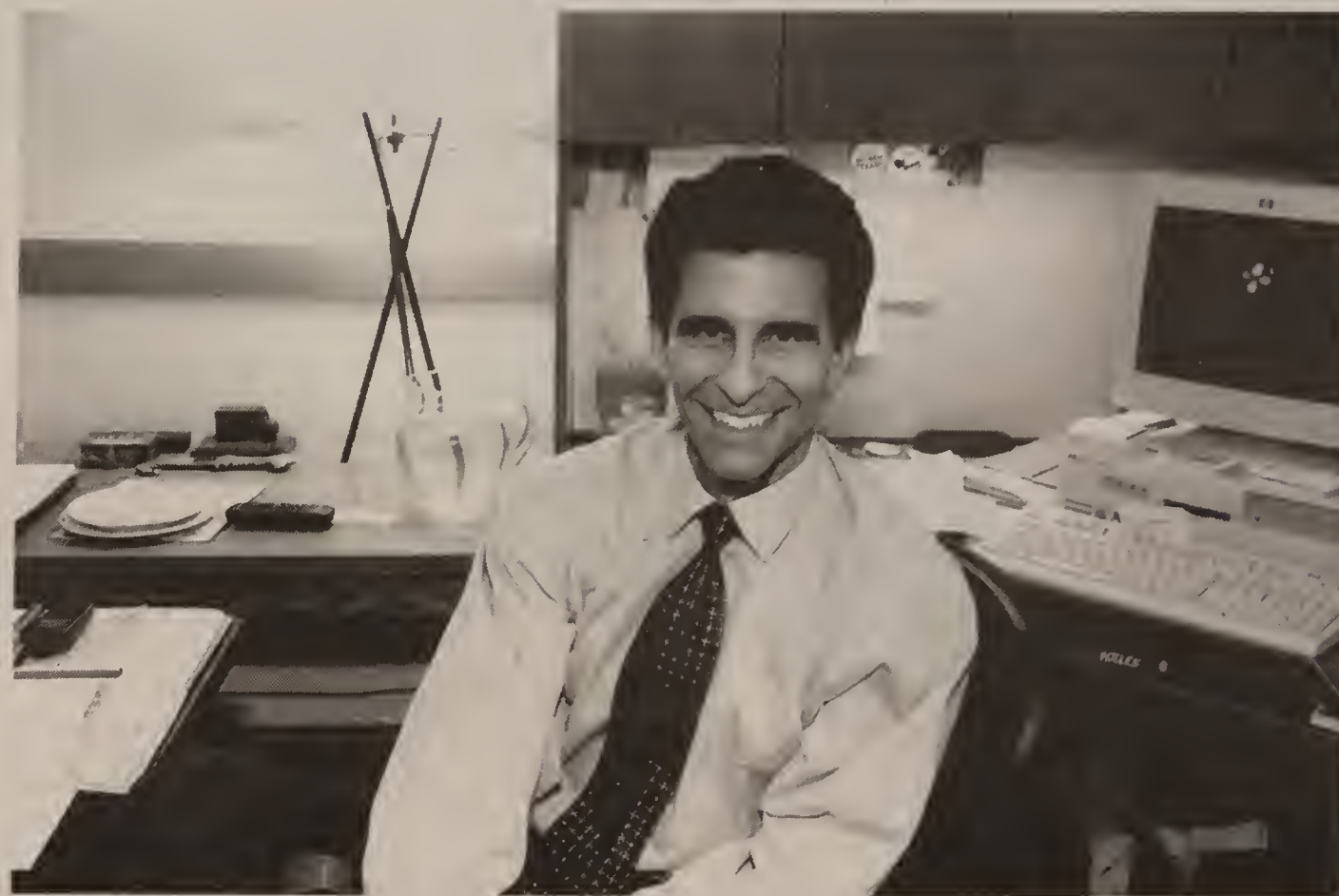
**Leno:** Yes, and I'm blessed because I have a good manager there, and good staff, and they're carrying on quite valiantly. Maybe they even do better with me out of their hair. But, out of both desire and necessity, I do need to keep my business going, because the job of supervisor pays only part-time wages [\$37,585 per year].

**Voice:** Do you get to spend much time in Noe Valley?

**Leno:** I make a point of being in touch on a regular basis with different neighborhood groups and merchants groups, but I don't hang out much, no.

**Voice:** So we're not going to be seeing you sitting on the bench in front of Martha's Coffee on a Saturday morning?

**Leno:** No, it's just not me. I spend my weekends partly at Budget Signs and partly at City Hall. But where you will see me almost every Sunday is PastaGina [on Diamond near 24th]. They're so friendly there, and the food is so wonderful. I get a couple of dishes to go in a paper bag, take them to my office, and have myself



"I love the fact that I get to put in 70, 80 hours a week into this job," says Supervisor Mark Leno, two months into his new term.

Photo by Beverly Thorp

a nice gourmet meal while I work. But that wouldn't qualify as hanging out.

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**Voice:** I can only imagine that your 70-hour work weeks are going to grow even longer now that you're chairing the Finance Committee. The Feb. 8 San Francisco Chronicle reported that the city is going to have \$44.6 million less in its pocket when the mayor sends his next budget to the board in June. It seems like a tough time to be chairing the Finance Committee.

**Leno:** It is. The Finance Committee, unlike all the other committees, meets every week as opposed to every other week. We probably have the thickest agenda and twice the committee work of any other committee. I feel like I've graduated and gone on to a higher class.

Chairing the Finance Committee requires a deeper involvement with the workings of the city. But I'm pleased to be able to do it. It's a great learning experience, and someone on the board has to take this on. I feel it's my turn.

**Voice:** How are you going to deal with the problems City Controller Ed Harrington noted in his report on the first half of fiscal year 2000-01? For example, 40 unions, representing 14,000 city workers, are negotiating new contracts. Harrington estimated that the city will end the current fiscal year with an \$82.9 million general fund balance, compared to \$127.5 million last June 30.

**Leno:** Well, I'm a perennial optimist. We're not talking about layoffs. We're not talking about cutting social services, though indeed it's never too early to make government more efficient. We should be very cautious at this time because clearly the economy is slowing. No one is arguing that, but we're not in dire straits. Hardly. Steady as she goes, I say.

I want to make sure that we are pulling in all possible revenue. One thing that I've initiated through some legislation is to ensure that the city is collecting every bit of its parking-lot tax.

We collected about \$48 million in parking tax last year. We have good reason to believe that there could be an extra \$25 million that we're not collecting, and we think we can collect that extra money by requiring parking-lot operators to install and maintain revenue control equipment. That's a term for a machine—you've probably seen one if you've ever been in the city garage at Fifth and Mission or Stockton-Sutter. That way, we will

be able to accurately audit to make sure we are collecting everything we should be.

Forty percent of this tax goes to the General Fund, 40 percent goes to Muni, and 20 percent goes to Senior Services. So there's \$25 million out there that we're not collecting. That could be an extra \$5 million for Senior Services. This is important because seniors represent probably the largest, fastest-growing constituency group in the city, and we need more money for their services.

**Voice:** What about raises for those 14,000 city workers? What is your position on that?

**Leno:** I think one issue that is perennially challenging is that of overtime. I was very encouraged that Muni just reported the other day that it has now reduced its overtime and is not jeopardizing service. If one part of city government can do it, maybe there's a lesson to be learned for some other departments.

We want to work with these departments to help them get a handle on their overtime and, hopefully, come up with some savings to the city. Also, through those savings, we may be better able to meet the demands of their negotiators.

**Voice:** A columnist for the Independent wrote in a Jan. 30 article that as Finance chairman you might be "vulnerable" politically, since you face a two-year term after a tough re-election runoff battle while the two other committee members have a four-year term, which gives them more security and more freedom to make cuts. Are you concerned about your political vulnerability?

**Leno:** Not one bit. I came to City Hall to do the best job I can for the city. I'll be doing that at Finance. That's not to say that I'm completely insensitive to political realities, but I'm not going to let it dictate the kind of job I'm going to do.

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**Voice:** Dogs have been in the news more than ever of late, and since dogs are such a big issue always in Noe Valley...

**Leno:** You know, District 8 has the highest concentration of dog ownership of any district in the city, the highest per capita dog population in the entire city.

**Voice:** Are you a dog owner?

**Leno:** I am not, but I'm a dog lover. I have a cat and three parrots.

**Voice:** Let's talk about the board resolution you authored following the National Park Service's announcement of a proposed plan to ban off-leash dogs on federal parkland in the Bay Area. If the

Park Service proceeded with rescinding their policy, the Board of Supervisors would initiate steps to try to reclaim the property.

**Leno:** The policy that has allowed dogs to run free on Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA) land goes back to 1979. We believe that if the National Park Service were to rescind its 22-year-old pet policy unilaterally, they would not be in compliance with the lease understanding they have with the city going back to 1975, when the city turned over land at Fort Funston. The lease clearly states that these lands should be used without interruption for park and recreation use, and they knew when they took those lands that this recreational use certainly included off-leash dog use.

**Voice:** My husband surfs at Ocean Beach virtually every morning that weather permits. He's seen dogs attack and kill seabirds in an area where dogs are required to be on-leash because the area is a protected habitat for the snowy plover bird. How do you balance your responsibility as a steward of the environment with the needs of pet owners?

**Leno:** I'm a great environmentalist and very concerned about protecting our natural habitat, but we're talking about 78,000 acres of land regarding the GGNRA issue. I know for a fact that if we sat down together—the GGNRA and the Board of Supervisors—we would be able to design a plan so that areas that needed to be protected would be, children and families would have a safe environment in which to recreate with or without their dogs, and there would be environmental protections.

Now it's tougher to do all of that in neighborhood parks because there's just not enough land to divide up for all those kinds of recreational uses. And if there was an absolute prohibition for off-leash dog use in these national park areas, the resultant increase of need for use in neighborhood parks would go up dramatically. That means many more people driving to the neighborhood parks, more traffic, more congestion, more parking problems, more exhaust and more pollution, and more wear-and-tear on our neighborhood parks. That's not what we want, so we need to strike a balance with the Park Service. That's what the resolution is really about.

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**Voice:** Six months ago, you proposed legislation to limit the size of future home

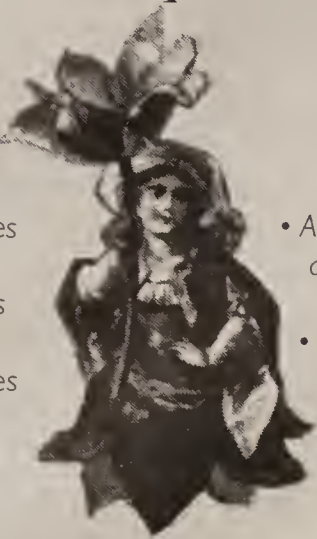
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# LETTERS 34¢

Open Letter to Noe Valley Residents

## My First Six Months

By Mission Police Captain Ron Roth

I have been captain of Mission Station for six months now, and it's made me realize how fast time breezes by. After being in charge of the Bayview Police Station for the past two years, I am now seeing how diverse two adjacent districts can be. Although I am thoroughly enjoying my challenging work in this wonderful district, as a native San Franciscan and 24-year veteran of the San Francisco Police Department, I am experiencing feelings and seeing dynamics I never knew existed.

To say the Mission District is an "active" community is an understatement. In my first few weeks in "the Mission," I tackled the closing and eviction of the Dancers' Studio (22nd and Mission) and the takeover of BigStep.com at the Bayview Bank Building by anti-displacement protesters. I endured a very raucous and vocal meeting with 500 people at Mission High about Rec and Park's dog-leash policy, and saw an upsurge in gang violence, which included a few shootings. Yes, I'd say it was a very eventful break-in period for me.

This being my fourth tour of duty at Mission Station, I have found some very significant changes upon my return. Drug use and drug dealing are rampant in certain areas, including on lower 24th Street east of Mission Street and at the 16th and Mission Street intersection. At these locations I have found out-of-towners, some from out of the country, taking advantage of San Francisco's tolerant criminal justice system. Unfortunately, these miscreants bring the associated violence with them, so street robberies and assaults are also abundant in these locations.

I was surprised to find that there were no steady beat officers assigned to these violence-prone areas. Most business owners and residents know the value of having beat officers who are familiar with local problems and who become a part of the community they patrol. Beat officers develop a special rapport with the residents and the shop owners, but also with the troublemakers, which usually keeps them in check.

Being of Central American heritage, I am very sensitive to the plight of our immigrant, non-English-speaking neighbors in the lower 24th Street area of the Mission. I have initiated Spanish-speaking community meetings to let our friends in that area know that they do have a voice in city government. I have heard them, month after month, tell their stories of the gang violence, the intimidation, and the incessant drug dealing in their neighborhood.

I have also heard from the longtime residents of the Mission who live in the Garfield Square area and who are becoming increasingly apprehensive about the reopening of the Bernal Dwellings at 26th and Harrison. We all remember, much too vividly, how that complex was once responsible for more murders than any other area in the city.

A very suspicious arson fire at the Brava Theater (formerly the York Theater, on 24th Street) in February brought up the subject of hate crimes again. As a member of the original SFPD Hate Crimes Unit, and later as the officer in charge of that unit, I am reminded how these callous, heinous crimes cannot be forgotten. The Castro District must also

have constant vigilance, as this area and its citizens are subject to hate violence.

The biggest problem I have seen in policing the most diverse and challenging district in the city is my lack of staffing. This problem is not unique to me, or to the Mission District; it is the problem of every police captain in San Francisco. It is one of Chief Lau's biggest problems, and one that every major city in America is facing. With almost zero unemployment, an unprecedented rise in Bay Area housing costs, and a high level of baby boomer retirements, it is difficult to attract and maintain a minimum staffing level in the San Francisco Police Department. These conditions are compounded by the SFPD's recent and planned future expansions, which include the airport's new international terminal, along with the civilian takeovers of the Presidio, Hunters Point Shipyard, and Treasure Island. We are severely below minimum staffing levels and will continue to be short officers for some time.

Unfortunately for the citizens of San Francisco, when we are short of officers, the commanding officers of the district stations must make tough choices on deployment. These choices are usually determined much like a triage center at a hospital. We take the worst cases first and "treat" them. In police work, that means that we must address the most violent crime issues in an area before all else. We must also allow for mobile officers to be readily available to respond to 911 calls in any part of our district. As you can see, this

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THE NOE VALLEY VOICE  
1021 Sanchez Street  
San Francisco, CA 94114  
[www.noevalleyvoice.com](http://www.noevalleyvoice.com)

The Noe Valley Voice is an independent newspaper published monthly except in January and August. It is distributed free in Noe Valley and vicinity, on or before the first Friday of the month. Subscriptions are available at \$20 per year (\$10 for seniors) by writing to the above address.

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April 2001 Issue: March 16, 2001  
Editorial and Class Ad Deadline: March 15

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PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

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## District 8 Supe Tackles the Ticklish Issues

Continued from Page 5

remodeling projects—your so-called “monster home” legislation. The matter was tabled until the new board was in office. What’s the status of the legislation?

**Leno:** Monster homes are a very big issue in District 8. They’re affecting all parts of town, but more so in Eureka Valley, Noe Valley, and Glen Park than in any other. I think that’s because these neighborhoods are close to BART and I-280, and folks who are working on the Peninsula are finding housing even more affordable here than in their neck of the woods, believe it or not. We see a lot of older, smaller structures being quite vulnerable to development.

Where we are right now is meeting on a weekly basis with representatives from all the different neighborhoods—from Collingwood Hill to Sanchez Hill to Randall Street and 30th Street, etc.—to craft something that will protect neighborhoods from out-of-scale and noncontextual development. It’s hard. Some of the questions we’re looking at right now are: Should we be creating special use districts in these neighborhoods, or can we come up with a magic formula that would actually work citywide? These are tough questions. Zoning questions are always difficult. We’re working steadily on this issue, but at the same time we don’t want to rush it, because we don’t want what we propose to be flawed.

**Voice:** Have you been involved in discussions regarding the proposed development at the Reilly mortuary site at Dolores and 29th?

**Leno:** Yep, yep, yep. It’s tough because what they’re proposing out at Reilly is within the code, but we want to preserve a particular kind of character.

☒ ☒ ☒

**Voice:** By the way, a few weeks ago, I was driving down Clipper Street in the early morning, and there was a driver in a Lincoln Town Car parked in front of your home—it was the mayor’s car. Were you and the mayor having an early morning pow-wow at your home?

**Leno:** No, actually, the mayor was out of town that day. I was acting mayor.

**Voice:** Oh, so you get his Town Car and driver for the day?

**Leno:** Whether one wants the car or not, there is a matter of security, so it is required. I joke with friends, telling them, “I’m going to be acting mayor for the day, and the good news is I’ve got the car and driver. The bad news is that riding in the car literally makes me sick to my stomach.” They use a particular kind of aerosol air freshener in the car, and I’m allergic to it. I get nauseated and dizzy. All of the windows have to be down when I’m in that car.

☒ ☒ ☒

**Voice:** During the current power crisis, you have been a strong advocate for the city making itself more energy self-sufficient. Tell us about the solar energy proposal you plan to introduce. [Leno presented the plan at the Board of Supervisors’ Feb. 12 meeting.]

**Leno:** I’m very excited about this. Technology presently exists for the city to be able to generate a significant amount of its daily power needs from solar voltaic technology, using rooftops of municipal buildings. There are large stretches of land that the Public Utilities Commission possesses—flat surfaces where we could lay the latest technology to capture solar energy. It’s cost-effective, it’s doable, and



As chair of the Board of Supervisors’ Finance Committee, Leno is constantly pressed to get a grip on the books that affect the city’s future.  
Photo by Beverly Tharp

I think because of the crisis, there will be the political will to move it forward.

We’re looking at what the expenses would be, what amount of our energy needs we could produce and how quickly we could get all of this installed. Then we’re going to do the necessary studies to see if it makes sense to put a revenue bond on the ballot, which would raise money that we would need for the initial costs.

Now, a revenue bond is different from a general obligation bond. It would not increase property taxes one bit, because the bonds are paid back by the revenue the

[Leno on city health coverage for sex-change operations]

**“I’ve gotten e-mails from people who’ve said, ‘So, what’s next? Nose jobs?’ That’s not what this is about. It’s about a medical condition that must be diagnosed by a physician.... It’s an issue of equity, and it’s interesting that San Francisco, which has led the world in fighting for equal benefits for equal work, has not been providing that.”**

bonds generate. We would be generating not only power but some money as well.

☒ ☒ ☒

**Voice:** Let’s talk a little bit about Muni’s new diesel buses. People in Noe Valley are complaining that they are noisy beyond belief. Others are upset about the pollution; they want Muni to purchase compressed natural gas buses instead. What do you plan to do about this?

**Leno:** It’s tough. These decisions are now made by the new Metropolitan Transportation Authority, but the dollars they will need to purchase any new fleet comes through the San Francisco Transportation Authority, which is made up of the Board of Supervisors. So we control those purse strings, and I’ve heard arguments made on both sides of the issue.

I really believe we should be pursuing the need for compressed natural gas. I don’t believe some of the suggestions made by Muni—that it would set us back years in replacing our old diesel fleet. Washington, D.C., was able to get up and running within one year. Why be invested in 150 new buses in what is without a doubt last-century technology? The future is not in diesel. Los Angeles moved away from diesel long ago. Many cities are following compressed natural gas paths.

Now, another concern at this time is the cost of natural gas and where that cost is going. So these are not easy questions. Certainly, if you look at the situation merely from an environmental health perspective, there’s no debate. No to diesel

buses. But if we also have the charge to keep Muni running reliably, can we do that with a new compressed natural gas fleet? I believe that we can.

Actually, we should be looking very immediately at battery-operated buses. The same individual who has the patent for the solar voltaic technology that I’ve been talking about for municipal rooftops has already provided a fleet of battery-powered buses to the city of Rome.

☒ ☒ ☒

**Voice:** Provide us with some details regarding your recent resolution asking the San Francisco Health Services Board to extend full health benefits to the city’s transgender employees. In their column in the Jan. 15 Chronicle, Matier and Ross give the impression that the city is going to be required to pay the costs for any employee who wants a sex-change operation. They even joke, “Sounds like a slam dunk for the ‘Only in San Francisco’ Award.” Let’s hear your side of the story.

**Leno:** What this resolution does for transgender employees of the City of San Francisco is give them access to health benefits in a way they have not had in the past. We’re not just talking about gender reassignment surgery. In fact, that’s not what we’re talking about.

We’re talking about equal benefits for equal work. Keep in mind that a lot of people don’t necessarily know that to benefit from what we just passed at the Health Services Board, an individual has to have a physician’s diagnosis [based upon the standards set by the Harry Benjamin International Gender Dysphoria Association, located in Minneapolis. The association has 350 members around the world in the fields of psychiatry, endocrinology, surgery, law, psychology, so-

ciology, and counseling. It often takes up to six months for doctors to assess a patient’s need for surgery].

Gender dysphoria is a medical condition, and there are medical procedures to tend to this medical condition. This is not elective surgery.

I’ve gotten e-mails from people who have said, “So, what’s next? Nose jobs?” That’s not what this is about. It’s about a medical condition that must be diagnosed by a physician. If you were non-transgender and you needed breast-reduction surgery or if you needed hormone therapy or if you needed treatment for breast cancer or a heart ailment or kidney or liver disease and you were a city employee, the city would cover you. If you were a transgender woman and you had breast cancer, the city up until now would not cover that, because they are saying it’s related to the transgender woman’s transgender condition and that they have an exemption for transgenders. So that is going to be changed.

It’s completely an issue of equity, and it’s interesting that San Francisco, which has led the world in fighting for equal benefits for equal work, has not been providing that. We’ve been slightly inconsistent, if not hypocritical, but we’re correcting that now.

☒ ☒ ☒

**Voice:** Last question. How should residents of Noe Valley go about contacting city government when they have a problem they need help with? When should they come to you?

**Leno:** It’s always important to use government as efficiently as possible. We get a lot of calls that we end up passing on to the Mayor’s Office of Neighborhood Services, which serves as a liaison between city government and the neighborhoods to make sure neighborhood problems and concerns are handled effectively. For example, if a neighbor needed a city tree to be trimmed, my office would not be the best place to call. We would most likely forward the request to Neighborhood Services.

However, people should always feel free to call my office regarding any matter. We might not be able to get back to you immediately, and in many cases we will refer you to Neighborhood Services. But if you have an issue that needs more specific attention than Neighborhood Services can give, always feel free to knock on my door.

☐

Supervisor Mark Leno’s office number is 415-554-7734. To reach Neighborhood Services, call 415-554-7111. The liaison for District 8 is Lawrence Ozoa.

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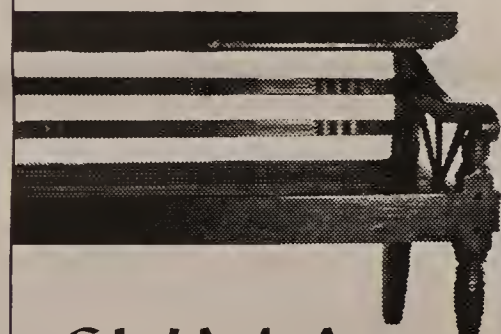
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# LETTERS 34¢

*Continued from Page 6*

quickly becomes a numbers game, with each captain attempting to juggle his or her short staff. Having this in mind, during these times of dwindling personnel, we do not always have the luxury of assigning two full-time beat officers exclusively to Noe Valley.

The decisions made by the captains of the district stations are certainly not made in a vacuum, however. We make every attempt to analyze the problems and study all possible solutions. This process cannot be completed without input from the community. We, as your partners in community policing, solicit your help, your feelings, your questions, and your concerns.

As I do with all interested community groups, I would like to make myself available to share your thoughts and hopefully provide some insight and help for the problems we face together in policing one of the most vibrant areas of the city, the Mission District. □

*Captain Ron Roth can be reached at  
Mission Police Station, 630 Valencia  
Street, San Francisco, CA 94110; phone  
558-5400, fax 558-5447.*

### Beware of Dog Death Threats

Editor:

This is an urgent notice to our Noe Valley neighbors! It is important that you are aware that there exists in your own backyard (yes, here in quaint, peaceful Noe Valley) some cowardly individual(s) of a violent and treacherous nature!

We have received anonymous and violent death-threat letters to our dog from one (or some) of our neighbors in the vicinity of 27th and Noe streets. Here are some excerpts from the letters, which were stamped and mailed directly to our home in envelopes with no name; return address, or contact information.

*"Hey, assholes. Dogs bark—dogs die.  
Straight shot to backyard. No joke."*

Jan. 23, 2001

*"...we will take care of it ourselves.  
Permanently."*

Oct. 2, 2000

The letters started coming in October and continued through mid-January. This person(s) supposedly represents "All Our Neighbors," as signed in the Oct. 2 letter.

If anyone has any information, or wishes to come forward to resolve this matter, please contact the San Francisco Police Department. Refer to report #010-094-968.

Meanwhile, if you notice that your dog, cat, or noisy child becomes ill or disturbed unexpectedly, you may want to report it to the SFPD.

We want to resolve this issue in a peaceful manner as soon as possible. Due to the violent nature of these threats, we hope you can understand the need to maintain our own anonymity. Thanks.

Noe Valley residents

*Names withheld by request*

### What a Concept—Park in the Garage

Editor:

I was very happy to see your story on sidewalk parking problems in the neighborhood ["The Painful Truth About Sidewalk Parking," February 2001]. The problem has grown tremendously in the past year or two. In recent conversations with a couple of neighbors new to my street, they each believed that they had a "right" to park in "their" driveways.

Two points: (1) It seems to me that the great majority of sidewalk parking is done by people with garages! If they simply park inside their garages, the problem would largely be eliminated. (2) If the DPT was really on the ball about citing violators,

the problem would not be as bad as it is.

I am one of those "disgruntled" neighbors who calls DPT, because there is a school and an elder care facility in the vicinity. Too often I've seen kids, old folks, parents with strollers, dog walkers, and kids on bikes forced onto Church Street by vehicles blocking the sidewalk. But also, too often when I call in to DPT, I get excuses like "we have higher priorities elsewhere now" or "we have already ticketed two cars on that block" (no tickets were apparent). If DPT does show up, it's often two to three hours later and the violators are gone, unpunished and likely to continue sidewalk parking.

Joe Hakim  
Valley Street

### Don't It Always Seem to Go...

Editor:

I enjoyed the ironic nature of published comments regarding the recently closed Dan's Auto Service on 24th Street ["Developer Plans to Build Large Apartment/Retail Complex on 24th Street," February 2001]. But I have to ask, from whence springs the wistfulness associated with this rundown facility that polluted the surrounding land?

Also, the yearning for a new parking lot instead of peopled stores and residences invites interesting variations on Joni Mitchell's classic song lyrics ("They paved paradise and put up a parking lot").

How 'bout: "They unpaved 24th Street and put up some homes and shops."

Christopher Baker  
Noe Valley

### The Rover's, Remembered

Editor:

Your article in last month's Store Trek section, including quotes from John Ferguson, one of the owners of Bliss Bar, made my blood boil. In describing the Rover's Inn as "a dark, claustrophobic, all-green" Irish pub, he shows scant knowledge of either the decor or the essence of the Rover's.

I had the pleasure of working in the Rover's for 3½ years and would like to take Mr. Ferguson to task for his remarks.

The only green was to be found on the exterior of the building, and with the gilding and specially made windows, this facade drew many admiring comments. As for being dark and claustrophobic, the Rover's had a friendly and welcoming atmosphere where benefits were held to help the local nursery school and other charities. It was on the scheduled call list for the schoolchildren during their Halloween parade, and the owner, staff, and even some of the customers provided potluck food at Thanksgiving and Christmas so that customers who, for one reason or another, could not be with family for the holidays would not feel left out. I could list many other activities the Rover's was involved in as a way of being part of, and giving back to, the community, but I think he should get the gist by now.

It has been three years since I had to leave the Rover's, but the friends I made there are still a joy to me. Since I live in the area, I see some of them every week, and they, as well as others I meet less frequently, will attest to the happy memories that are the legacy of the Rover's.

While I wish Mr. Ferguson and his partner success with their new venture, might I suggest that trying to gain popularity by taking "cheap shots" at the previous owner, who has run successful businesses in Noe Valley for a long time, is perhaps not the most neighborly way to achieve it.

Anne Devine  
Guerrero Street





Steve of Upper Noe shows our fearless photographer some of the roof equipment he's installed to turn free sunshine into affordable power in his home. Photo by Beverly Tharp

## A Solar House to Warm Your Heart

*Continued from Page 1*

the "green home" circuit.

Still, he agreed to give the *Voice* a peek at the three-story Victorian he shares with his wife Lynn, to show how his system works. He also wanted to demonstrate how he saves money as well as energy, and tell us what he has learned through several years of trial and error.

### First Step: Harness the Sun

Steve began fulfilling his dream of an energy-friendly home about seven years ago during a home renovation. A passionate solar advocate for 25 years and a building contractor himself, Steve saw it was time to make use of his knowledge.

First, he took advantage of the fact that the back of his house faces south. He created a "Trombe" wall (named after French engineer Felix Trombe) to soak up the sunshine. This is a passive solar heat collection system that traps heat between glass and a black-painted concrete wall. Cold air from inside the home is drawn up through small openings at the bottom of the wall, heated by the sun in the space between the glass and concrete, naturally pushed (warm air rises, remember) through small openings at the top, and circulated back into the room.

On a chilly 55-degree morning, Steve and Lynn's living room can be warmed to 75 degrees without the use of gas or electricity. A greenhouse full of orchids and hibiscus has been built around part of the Trombe wall to take further advantage of the free heat.

Above the greenhouse, on the roof, sit 20 photovoltaic (the technical term for solar) panels. Large trays of silicon wafers under glass collect light from the sun,

then convert it to electrical current. Each panel is about 3 1/2 feet square and looks like something you'd see on Spacelab (that's because they're the same kind of panels, Steve notes). They're also a larger version of the panels you see facing the sky on the call boxes along the highway.

On an average sunny Noe Valley day, the panels on Steve and Lynn's roof create about 12 kilowatts of electricity. But their 3,000-square-foot house, with its refrigerator, stove, lights, TV, and computers, uses a bit more than that on an average day.

"I can get consumption down to about 18 to 20 kilowatts per day if I really try to conserve," says Steve. So the panels help, but they don't eliminate the household's need to use electricity from PG&E.

Next to the photovoltaic panels is a less space-age device that simply collects heat from the sun to create hot water. Before water from the city's system goes into Steve and Lynn's hot-water heater in the basement, it is pumped up to the roof, shot through copper tubes (painted black for maximum heat absorbency), and then sent back down to the basement water heater.

On a normal winter day, this rooftop panel can heat water to about 120 degrees Fahrenheit. Steve points out proudly that his traditional hot-water heater only has to heat the water a few more degrees to reach normal hot-shower temperature. And that's any season of the year.

"You don't have to have a warm day, just a sunny one," he says.

And, true to Steve's goal of conserving energy no matter how it's produced, the house is insulated with recycled newspaper, which was blown wet into the walls during remodeling.

### Windmills Need a Steady Gale

Perhaps the most eye-catching feature of this Noe Valley home is the pair of

*Continued on Page 11*

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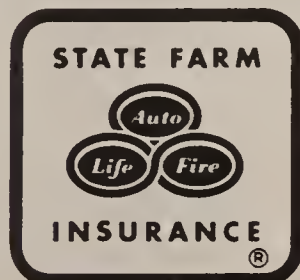


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## LETTERS 34¢

THE VOICE welcomes your letters to the editor. Write the *Noe Valley Voice*, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Or send e-mail to [jaxvoice@aol.com](mailto:jaxvoice@aol.com). Please include your name, address, and phone number. (Anonymous letters will not be considered for publication.) You may also send us mail via our web site: [www.noevalleyvoice.com](http://www.noevalleyvoice.com). Note that letters may be edited for brevity or clarity.

## LETTERS 34¢

### Should We Save Injured Animals?

Editor:

I read with keen interest your story on animal rehabilitation ["Conversations on Death and Dying: A Visit to the WildCare Education and Rehabilitation Center," February 2001]. Since I work with middle school students teaching them about nature in a program called Kids in Parks, I often discuss with them how death and dying works in the context of animal habitats found in San Francisco's urban park system.

What I found missing in the article, however, was the question of whether our human attempts to save injured animals goes against the grain of nature at large. Particularly poignant, when set against the descriptions of so many animals held in captivity because they would not survive if let loose in nature, was the visit to the "hands-on wildlife education center" at WildCare, where taxidermy is exhibited.

I wonder if we do a disservice to the wild by protecting disabled animals from their rightful place in nature: returning to the earth as food for other wild creatures. Might not our urge to save the rest of the natural world, whether it be through restoring so-called native plants or exhibiting once-upon-a-time wild animals in zoos, reflect a modern, western culture's deep-seated denial of death and dying as a natural process?

I know for myself, if given the advice of modern medical science to remain in a hospital bed as death nears, I would rather choose death at home, a choice, however, that our fellow species here on earth are often denied in the name of misplaced human compassion. At least if returned to the wild, even at death, such creatures can be said to have died free.

David Graves  
Excelsior District

### Willie's Baby

Editor:

What kind of example does the mayor of San Francisco give to young African-American men and women, or to any young people for that matter, with his fathering of a child out of wedlock? What does his behavior say to the efforts of countless parents, teachers, Planned Parenthood counselors, and AIDS and safe-sex educators to guide young adults to indulge in safe and responsible sexual practices and responsible parenting?

I am not writing to moralize about sex. I believe sex is a wonderful gift that consenting adults should enjoy without spreading diseases or creating surprise pregnancies that saddle young women and often young men with children whom they are ill equipped to love and support. I do not care whom the mayor has sex with in private. It is none of my business. I do care about the public example he sets for young people who may look up to him as a political leader.

The mayor has given a gift to the Committee to Recall Willie Brown. Many religious leaders and voters may now sign the recall petition and vote to recall the mayor and elect his successor in the Nov. 6 election. We had a dozen reasons to remove him from office, and he just gave us another. For more information on the recall effort, call 661-3600 or visit [www.RecallBrown.com](http://www.RecallBrown.com).

Who would you like to see elected mayor this November?

Jim Reid  
Franconia Street

### Keep Those Class Ads Coming

Dated Feb. 14, 2001

Editor:

Hi, is it too late for me to drop off a classified ad tomorrow at your office? Or

does it need to be postmarked Feb. 15? Just a quick "yes" or "no" would be great. Thanks!

Also, since I moved here from Boston, I have depended on you for information, orientation, acculturation, and a laugh or two. I also found a good repair guy in your classifieds! Thanks for the hard professional work. Warmly,

Sally Shannon  
Via e-mail

*Editor's Reply: Thank you, Sally. Of course, you can drop your class ad by the office on the 15th. With compliments like that, we might even accept it on the 16th. We have a "Noe Valley Voice" cubbyhole in the lower hall at the Noe Valley Ministry, or you can leave it at our office, which is just beyond the bathrooms at the back of the church. If for some reason the church is locked, you can drop your ad—or any item, addressed to the Voice—in the mail slot on the outside of the building, to the left of the front door. The Ministry is the gray and white Gothic edifice with the steeple at 1021 Sanchez Street near 23rd (S.F., CA 94114). We are independent of the church, but have rented a tiny office there since 1978.*



### A Poet of the Valley

Editor:

I am sending these poems by my aunt, Elsie McKeown, who lived on 26th Street between Church and Dolores streets until 1995. She was a lifelong resident of Noe Valley, and lived on 26th Street until she was 93 years old, when she came to live with me, her only relative.

She loved to write poetry—especially for her friends. She was very active, both in her church and in the Upper Noe Valley senior citizens group.

I grew up on 26th Street, also. I have very fond memories of the neighborhood. I always enjoy looking around 24th Street when I'm in town, and love to read the *Voice*, as it keeps me up to date on the happenings in the neighborhood.

Elsie McKeown died in 1998 at the age of 96. I hope you can use these poems. I will also look for old photos of the valley.

Joan E. Knapp  
Fresno, Calif.

Dear Joan,

Thank you for your gift of your aunt's poems. Below is one we especially liked.

—Editors, *Noe Valley Voice*

### The Dance of the Pine Tree

I look out my window and there I see  
The moving branches of a tall pine tree.  
The swaying limbs are dancing, and I know,  
Both mood and music depend on how the  
wind blows.

The breezes are gentle, the movement is slow,  
Like the stately minuet danced so long ago.  
The rhythm increases, and into a waltz they  
swing,  
Gracefully twirling—what memories they  
bring!

Faster and faster there comes a quicker beat,  
It's a lively polka to sweep you off your feet.  
How strong is the wind! It's blowing a gale,  
In a frenzy of abandonment the branches flail,  
It's a fandango or a tarantella so wild  
Will this violent mood ever change, be mild?

The winds slow down, there's a gentle  
swaying,  
The branches are whispering. What are  
they saying?

Wasn't that exciting! But it couldn't last,  
It's great to be calm again, remembering  
the past.

—Elsie McKeown, February 1990





The back of Steve's house demonstrates the Made-in-Noe-Valley style of his experimental solar dwelling.

Photo by Beverly Sharp

## A 'Green House' Thrives In Noe

*Continued from Page 9*

windmills that sit atop the roof, ready to convert those fierce gusts of Noe Valley wind into energy to run the coffeemaker. However, says Steve, the windmills don't quite cut it in his neighborhood.

"They aren't as effective as I'd hoped," he says. "I think they'd have to be a hundred feet higher—at least—to catch enough wind."

Steve has learned through his windmill experiment that it's not the bursts of wind that do the trick, but rather, heavy, sustained winds. "I thought Noe Valley wind would be enough, but I suggest to anyone who wants to do this that they use a wind gauge first to test their spot."

The windmills will be coming down soon to make room for some more light-converting photovoltaic panels. The addition, he hopes, will give him the extra eight kilowatts he needs to power the home completely on a conservative-use day.

### Making the Meter Run Backward

Weak winds or lack of roof space are some of the obstacles you face when building a green home, Steve says. But the toughest hurdle can be the permit and inspection process.

Steve sorts through bulging files and rattles off several names of officials he had to contact in order to get his system approved. "You've got to really want to do this. It's a fair amount of paperwork."

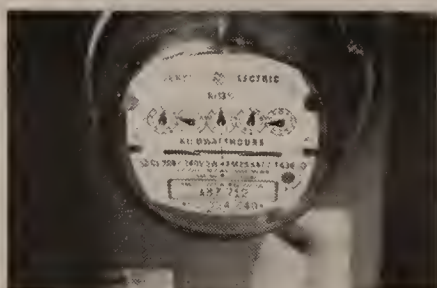
He and his wife dealt with numerous state, city, and PG&E officials. He remembers one inspection where a representative from all three agencies had to attend. He says his professional experience as a contractor on commercial buildings came in handy.

Another hindrance is, of course, money. Steve did some of the work himself, and some of it was done by other pro-

fessionals. Just installing the solar panels, the system for converting the current, and the equipment for monitoring it all put him back about \$20,000. With a rebate from the California Energy Commission, the project ended up costing him \$11,000.

Which, according to Steve, is darned attractive nowadays.

"It used to be you could make your money back with lower PG&E bills in 15 to 20 years. Now," he laughs, "based on the rates we're looking at now, it'd take only about five years."



If Steve turns off a few lights and computers, he can make his meter run backwards. Then, PG&E has to pay him. Photo by Beverly Sharp

But he and Lynn have seen a payback already, one he boasts about like a proud papa: If their electricity consumption is less than the electricity their system is generating, the meter at the house actually runs backward.

To demonstrate, he darts around the house to shut down a computer here and a light switch there. Then he runs to the PG&E meter at the front of the house and—voila, the dial is spinning backwards.

When that happens, Steve says, he gets kilowatt credits, which will be averaged into next year's PG&E bill.

### A Hybrid Car to Match

Not one to limit himself to sun and wind, Steve also owns a Toyota Prius, a hybrid car that combines a gas engine with an electric motor. His favorite part about the car is that when he uses the brakes, kinetic energy is converted to electricity. This means the car recharges itself, so there's no need to plug it in at night.

Steve also reports that the family's clothes washer is kaput, so he and Lynn

will soon purchase an Energy Star-rated, front-loading washer that uses a third less water and soap than standard top-loaders.

Back up on the roof to show where the new solar panels will be squeezed in, Steve gestures toward all the panel-less, sun-resistant rooftops across Noe Valley.

"You know, if an eighth of energy users here in California installed 20 panels like this on their roofs, we wouldn't have an energy crisis." □

### Green Resources

For more information on how to become a sun catcher, or for more energy-saving techniques, Steve recommends that you try these sources:

- Solar Depot (sells solar electric and hybrid power systems): 1-800-822-4041 or [www.solardepot.com](http://www.solardepot.com)
- Real Goods Trading Company (a store with "a broad range of tools for independent living" in Ukiah, Calif.): 1-707-744-2100 or [www.realgoods.com](http://www.realgoods.com)
- California Energy Commission (for rebates on installing solar, wind, or other eligible systems): 1-800-555-7794 or [www.energy.ca.gov](http://www.energy.ca.gov)

- San Francisco Toyota (hybrid car Prius): 415-750-8300 or [www.prius.toyota.com](http://www.prius.toyota.com)
- Energy Star (a department of the Environmental Protection Agency) 1-888-782-7937 or [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov)

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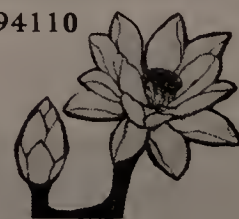
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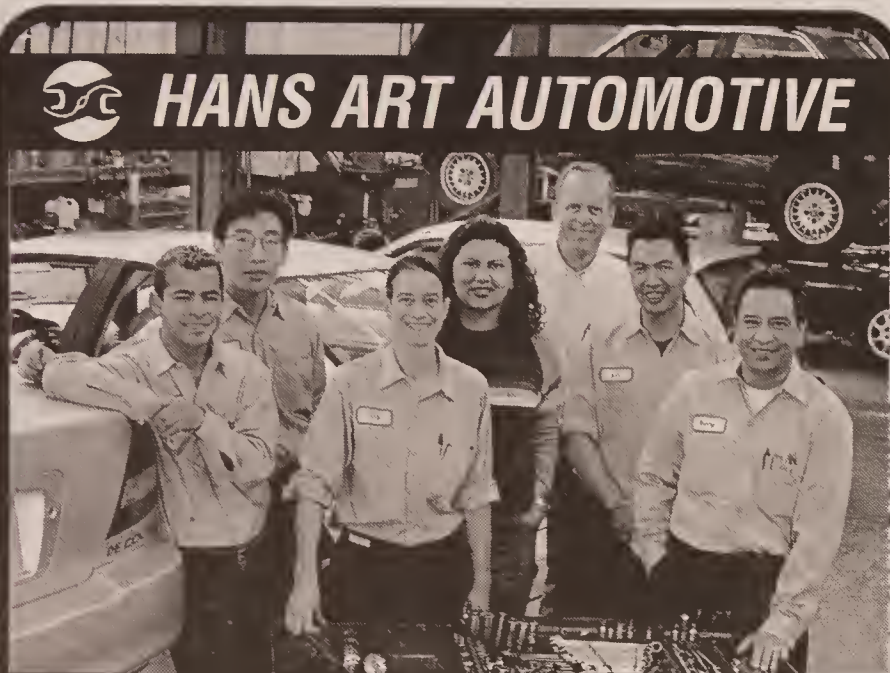
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## Vicious Attack Leads to Canine Profiling

*Continued from Page 1*

be sensitive to people who may be afraid of his dog. "I give people more room; I'll steer my dog closer to the curb."

Frank and some of his dog friends are also trying to preempt negative reactions toward dogs by picking up more poop—and not just from their own dogs. Still, Frank believes the present attitude toward dogs is temporary. "In another two or three months, this will all be a memory."

Not everyone walking Noe Valley's streets with their dog has felt anxious eyes staring at them.

Dave Devlin, a neighborhood resident who has a 1½-year-old pit bull mix named Juice, says no one has said anything disapproving about his dog. He also is convinced the public will not become permanently fearful of dogs because of one attack.

"Most people have enough common sense to realize that no matter how much the press plays it up, this was just an isolated incident," says Devlin. As if to confirm his assertion, several people came up to pet Juice as the dog sat tied up outside a 24th Street store.

People may feel fine about Juice, but some Noe Valley merchants, especially those who have dog-related businesses, say that overall, the public's perception of dogs has definitely changed for the worse.

"I feel there's a genuine public hysteria about dogs due to media coverage," says Celia Sack, co-owner of the Noe Valley Pet Company at 1451 Church Street. Sack says people are now more afraid of dogs, even dogs once considered very friendly, like golden retrievers. The fear, Sack

maintains, is not justified. "[The fatal mauling] was a unique incident; it has never happened before in San Francisco."

Sack says many of her customers have reported receiving negative remarks about their animals, particularly if the dogs were off-leash. "It's ridiculous," says Sack. "People are now even equating barking with viciousness."

Over at VIP Grooming at 24th and Douglass streets, owner Lancy Woo says the fallout from the Whipple tragedy has made life more difficult for her dog owner customers. "Things are harder in every way, from renting an apartment to just walking your dog," she says.

Woo blames the owners of the Presa Canarios for the attack, not the dogs themselves. "The dogs did not get the training needed to redirect their aggression."

Ironically, says Woo, it is the little dogs who do most of the biting, not the large breeds. "But you don't hear about it." Big dogs with mean-looking faces, such as pit bulls and boxers, often inspire the most fear, Woo says, although the fear is unfounded. "Those are some of the nicest dogs."

Woo says the current situation is also giving additional ammunition to those who would ban off-leash dogs from all city parks.

Across the street from VIP Grooming at Noe Courts—which in the past has been the focus of intense standoffs between pro- and anti-dog forces—some dog owners hanging out with their pets are feeling increased pressure to curb their animals.

Colt, a 24th Street resident, who has an 11-month-old pit bull named Nikita, says that people with kids often leave the park when they see her dog. She calls their reaction a "media thing," adding that Nikita is "super friendly."

Ken, who lives close to the park at 24th and Hoffman streets, said that someone recently called the police to report that his 12-year-old Weimaraner, Bridget, was off-leash by his house. Ken couldn't believe someone would do that. "She just sits there; she's very docile."

A couple of parents playing with their children on the Noe Courts swings spoke of their increased awareness of dogs. "There is a natural cautiousness, which has been amplified by the [mauling] incident," said Regan Pritzker, a Glen Park resident.

Eric McClellan, a 25th Street parent, said that although the vicious attack on Diane Whipple had made him more conscious of dogs in general, he does not want his kids to be unduly afraid of them. So he is teaching them the proper way to behave around dogs.

According to the San Francisco SPCA, one should *never* approach or pat a strange dog without first obtaining the owner's consent. Once the owner has given permission, then offer the back of your hand for the dog to sniff.

For more advice on interacting with dogs, see the list accompanying this story. □

### How to Prevent a Dog Bite

Here are some tips from the U.S. Humane Society that may help you avoid becoming the victim—or the cause—of a dog bite.

- ❶ Before petting someone else's dog, ask the owner for permission. After getting permission to pet the dog, let the dog sniff the back of your hand first. Avoid petting or trying to pick up strange dogs.
- ❷ When a dog approaches you, stand still and stay quiet. Keep your hands at your sides.
- ❸ Always walk your dog on a leash.
- ❹ When you are not walking your dog, keep him indoors with you—or in a fenced yard. Spend time playing and caring for your dog.
- ❺ Don't pet or approach a dog while it is eating, sleeping, or guarding something. Pets naturally guard their food, their offspring, and their toys. Dogs also protect their owner and their owner's property—such as their home, yard, or car.
- ❻ Don't try to pull a toy, stick, or any other item from a dog's mouth. Avoid playing tug-of-war with dogs. Playing roughly with dogs may teach them to bite, jump, or become aggressive.
- ❼ Don't run away from a dog that is chasing you. A dog's natural instinct is to chase and catch someone who is running away. If you stand still, the dog will most likely stop, sniff you, and leave you alone when it realizes you are not a threat. Also, don't chase or tease dogs.
- ❽ Don't approach a dog (or any other animal) that is injured. Instead, call a vet or animal control authority.

For more information, visit the web site of the Humane Society of the United States at [www.hsus.org](http://www.hsus.org).

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## Merchants Sweating Out Higher Power Bills

*Continued from Page 1*

Calls to her state assemblyman, her state senator, Gov. Gray Davis, and of course, Pacific Gas and Electric have been less than fruitful. "I got a letter from my assemblyman saying thanks for my concern. And from PG&E I got a recording about how my business should expect a doubled or tripled bill and that I could arrange to make installments on my bill if I qualify."

Skoufis says she's not only worried about her own business but about other merchants' ability to keep their heads above water. "It looks to me, in the news, like it's becoming just a political thing. But to us down here, it's scary."

### Restaurants Forced to Raise Prices

At Savor Restaurant on 24th Street, Maher Fakhouri is not so much scared as hopping mad.

"This is absurd!" said Fakhouri, after opening a PG&E bill twice the size of the last one. "What can we do? I see only two things to do, and both are very difficult."

The first thing, he says, is to change the menu a bit and raise prices by 10 to 15 cents per item. The second is to let staff go, to compensate for the higher bills he now has to pay.

"We've always been in the habit of conserving, turning the gas on to make the omelet, turning it off when we're done, things like that," he says, "so we don't know what else to do, and I feel like we're hitting a brick wall."

Fakhouri says he is reluctant to spread the costs to his customers, but he would be heartsick if he had to lay anybody off.

"We have a good team here. I hope a slight price increase on the menu will allow us to keep everyone working."

However, when asked for his title at Savor, he responds: "Owner, general manager, and I guess soon, dishwasher!"

Down the block at Noe Valley Pizza Restaurant (24th and Sanchez), Manager Adam Bousiakos sighs when asked about the PG&E bill. He says he's pretty sure it has increased threefold.

To reduce costs, "I am decreasing the oven temperature about 40 percent during the less busy hours [in the afternoons]," says Bousiakos, and cranking it up for the dinner hour.

"I have also bought some new lower-watt light bulbs and some dimmer switches, but I really don't want to change the menu." Still, he admits the restaurant may eventually be forced to raise prices.



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When he learns that other restaurants are being asked how they're coping with the crisis, he grows interested. "Really?" he asks eagerly. "What are they doing?"

### Terra Mia Packs a Very Hot Oven

Christine Simmons, who owns Terra Mia, the pottery studio that recently moved from 24th Street to 1314 Castro Street, doesn't have the option of turning her oven down. The kiln she uses to heat paint on pottery to a glassy, waterproof glaze has to reach 2,000 degrees Fahrenheit for the glaze to set properly. And it takes 24 hours to get to that temperature.

The only way to economize is by loading the kiln with more pottery before turning it on. "For a more efficient firing, we wait a little longer for more pieces to fill the oven." But, says Simmons, this cre-

ates problems at the other end. The oven, packed with hot pottery, takes longer to cool down to the point where the pieces can be handled. Customers now have to wait longer to retrieve their works of art.

To save a few more dollars, Simmons has begun waiting until after 7 p.m. to fire up the kiln. (PG&E charges her a lower rate after 6 p.m.) Simmons hasn't seen a difference in her bill yet, but she's crossing her fingers.

Terra Mia's bill, even on a busy-kiln month, runs about \$500. Simmons attributes this to some of the techniques she's using. But she also gets a little help from Mother Nature—her new location on Castro has skylights. Not only does the extra sun cut down the need for electrical lighting, but it also helps her customer-artists see and judge their work. □

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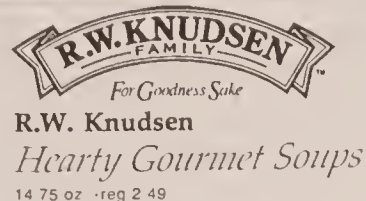
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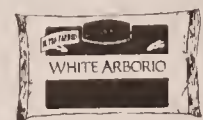
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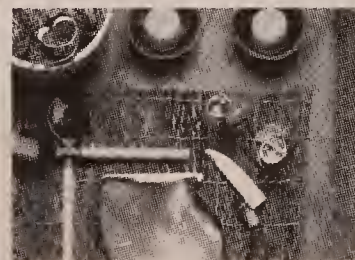
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## Robber Was Direct: 'I Just Want Cash'

By Officer Lois Perillo

There was only one reported robbery within my Noe Valley turf in January.

A man and a woman were parking their vehicle at Alvarado and Diamond streets on Sunday, Jan. 14, at 2:25 a.m. They were approached by a 25- to 30-year-old man who brandished a silver gun at the male passenger and said, "I just want cash." When the passenger handed over his wallet, the suspect removed the money and threw the wallet down before moving to the driver's side. The woman took money from her purse and gave it to the robber, who ran east on Alvarado Street. Luckily, no one was physically hurt in the incident.

Officer Kevin Stancombe responded and searched the area, but did not find the suspect, who may also be involved in a similar robbery that occurred at Castro and 18th streets.

### Repeat Offender in DV Case

In a domestic violence incident that took place on Tuesday, Jan. 2, a 32-year-old woman was assaulted by her 44-year-old husband in their home on the 4200 block of 22nd Street.

The man allegedly grabbed his wife by the throat and pushed her into a wall, and then shoved his fingers into one of her eyes. Then he punched his fist through a glass window, cutting his hand.

After police were called, Officer Brian Philpott arrived on the scene and took the man into custody. A criminal records check revealed that the suspect had been charged with domestic violence in three separate cases in Alameda County.

At the officer's request, a judge issued a restraining order, barring the suspect from contacting his wife and ordering him to move out for a minimum of five days. The husband was booked in this incident and he spent one day in jail, after which his charges were dropped and he was released. Five weeks later, however, he appeared to be at it again.

On Tuesday, Feb. 13, at 12:56 a.m., he broke into his wife's padlocked bedroom, ripped the phone cord from the wall, and then physically and sexually assaulted her. Officers Shawn Fulgado and Matt O'Leary responded this time and took the suspect into custody, where he remained last month. He will face multiple felony charges at his March court date.

### Battles in the Laundromat

In a bizarre dispute over a power washer, two 22-year-old men assaulted a 54-year-old man in a laundry on the 3300 block of 21st Street, on Sunday, Jan. 14, at 9:18 p.m.

When one of the younger men asked the whereabouts of a power washer, the older man, an employee, denied knowledge of the equipment. The two pushed the older man into a wall, handcuffed one of his wrists as he struggled, then pushed him to the ground, where one of them tried to stab him with a knife. The employee struggled and sustained defensive wounds to his free hand, but managed to avoid further knife injury. However, the other assailant struck him in the back of his head with a blunt object. At this point in the melee, an unidentified woman phoned the police. The older man's work partner finally heard his yells for help. Fearing for his co-worker's life should

the assault continue, the worker used a bat and struck both suspects, causing them to relinquish their hold and effectively stopping the assault.

Police Officers Lyn Weggenmann and Christopher Damonte arrived at the scene, confiscated all the weapons, and rendered and summoned medical aid. Subsequently, they booked the two suspects at county jail, where they remained pending their court dates.

On Friday, Jan. 12, at 11:43 a.m., while in a different laundromat on the 1000 block of Dolores Street, a 20-year-old woman was pushed by a 19-year-old man in a dispute over the use of a clothes dryer. The woman went out and brought two friends back with her. They confronted the man and entered into a yelling and pushing match with the instigator. Officers Eamonn Conway and Sandy Ganster responded, and with the woman's signed complaint, cited the man who pushed her.

### Burgs Mount Up

There were 10 reported burglaries within my area of Noe Valley during January, with four houses or flats targeted, and two each of apartments, garages, and commercial properties. The majority of the crimes happened on weekdays, during the day. Take extra precautions to lock up when you're not at home.

### No New Dispos

Surprisingly, there is nothing new to report about the local cases I've been following. All the defendants are keeping their court dates, either on their own or encouraged by the sheriff's department, which escorts them from jail to court.

### This Is Goodbye, for Now

As many of you know, my partner Heather and I are expecting our first child very soon. I've been "off the street" for about five months, working in the Graffiti Abatement Unit (558-5445). I've also been enjoying my interactions with the adults and young people sent to our program, and the many officers detailed to make it work.

Yes, I do miss my 24th Street beat partner, Officer Lorraine Lombardo, and all of you in the Noe Valley community. As one of the original community police officers of yore—and as someone who is committed to neighborhood policing and still believes strongly in establishing a partnership with the people I serve—I find my nearing departure to be bittersweet. However, I am also so excited about being a mom.

My due date is March 12, and I intend to work right up into early labor. I'm hoping to be able to stop at home before my trip to the hospital, but I may indeed be

spirited to California Pacific Medical Center in a patrol car. Who knows?

My own birth story is quite fun—Mom had contractions at about 6 p.m. on a snowy December night. She was told by the family doctor, Thron, who had birthed her in her great-grandmother's bed, to check into the hospital in a few hours. "Good," Mom replied, "I still have Christmas shopping to do."

She promptly went to Parkchester with Nana, completed her shopping, and walked into the hospital around 9 p.m. I was born around 1 a.m., with Dad in the hallway, giving presents to the nurses.

So, this is goodbye for now. Thanks for the honor of working within your community. It's been a grand 12 years. Be safe, and Lorraine will see you on patrol. □

*As you may well surmise, Officer Lois Perillo will be taking a leave of absence from her reporting of the Police Beat column in the Voice. However, we do plan to smile through our tears and publish a modified police log in the coming months. And all of Lois' baby news, of course!*

*Meanwhile, if you would like to discuss a crime or safety problem, call Officer Lorraine Lombardo at Mission Station at 558-5404. Or for those Noe Valley residents living south of Cesar Chavez Street, call Ingleside Police Station at 553-1603.*

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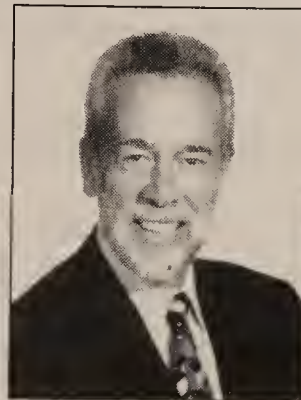
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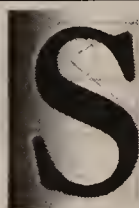
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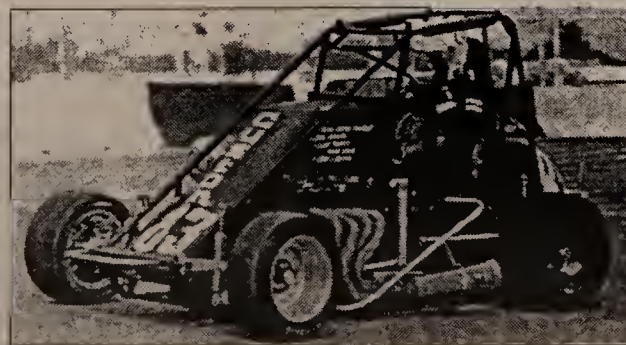
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## NOE BUYS / NOE RENTS

According to data supplied to the *Voice* by Zephyr Real Estate, the cost to buy a single-family home in Noe Valley went down about \$90,000 over the past three months. However, the average price of a home continued to hover around \$800,000, double what it was three years ago. There also were some major purchases in January. One buyer paid close to \$1.3 million for a three-bedroom house in the 500 block of Elizabeth Street. Another paid \$825,000 for a two-bedroom condo in the 200 block of Chattanooga Street.

Still, Zephyr manager Randall Kostick predicts this spring's real estate climate will be "calmer and more civilized" than the previous two. "We've got a pretty level market, where there are still plenty of buyers, but a lot more sellers, so some things have evened out and there are not quite as many multiple-offer situations," says Kostick.

As for apartments, David Grabstald, assistant marketing manager for Rent Tech Inc., reports that Noe Valley rents dipped slightly during the latter part of 2000 and first two months of 2001. "They've dropped a bit," he says. "However, Noe Valley is one of the city's most popular neighborhoods and demand is still high, so you're not going to see a dramatic decrease in rents" reflected in the first-quarter figures (available after March 31). Grabstald adds that if you're looking for a place to rent, now's the time to start pounding the pavement. "This is a good time to look for an apartment—in Noe Valley and all over the city—because prices are lower in February, March, and April, before the summer rush." —Sally Smith

### Noe Valley House Sales – January 2001\*

Total Sales (Closings During Month)	Low Price (\$)	High Price (\$)	Average Price (\$)	Average Days on Market	Sale Price as % of List Price
<b>Single-family homes</b>					
9	589,000	1,295,000	817,111	22	120%
<b>Condominiums</b>					
2	750,000	825,000	787,500	8	109%
<b>2 to 4 unit buildings</b>					
4	650,000	1,115,000	871,250	32	106%

### Noe Valley House Sales – December 2000\*

Total Sales (Closings During Month)	Low Price (\$)	High Price (\$)	Average Price (\$)	Average Days on Market	Sale Price As % of List Price
<b>Single-family homes</b>					
8	500,000	1,800,001	850,625	60	113%
<b>Condominiums</b>					
4	575,000	1,110,000	901,250	17	107%
<b>2 to 4 unit buildings</b>					
2	850,000	951,000	900,500	20	118%

### Noe Valley House Sales – November 2000\*

Total Sales (Closings During Month)	Low Price (\$)	High Price (\$)	Average Price (\$)	Average Days on Market	Sale Price As % of List Price
<b>Single-family homes</b>					
10	650,000	1,200,000	909,000	13	119%
<b>Condominiums</b>					
9	345,000	850,000	615,250	43	107%
<b>2 to 4 unit buildings</b>					
2	750,000	827,000	788,500	21	113%

### Noe Valley Rents\*\*

Apartment Size	Average Rents (July–September 2000)	Average Rents (October–December 2000)	% Increase (+) or Decrease (–)
<b>Studio</b>	\$ 1,194 / mo.	\$ 1,273 / mo.	+ 6.6%
<b>1 bedroom</b>	2,056 / mo.	1,913 / mo.	– 7.0%
<b>2 bedrooms</b>	2,908 / mo.	2,790 / mo.	– 4.1%
<b>3 or more bedrooms</b>	3,857 / mo.	4,085 / mo.	+ 5.9%

\*Information provided to the *Noe Valley Voice* courtesy of Zephyr Real Estate ([www.zephyr-re.com](http://www.zephyr-re.com)) and based on all Noe Valley home sales (closings) recorded during the month. "Noe Valley" in this survey is defined loosely as the area bordered by Grand View, 22nd, Guerrero, and 30th streets.

\*\*Data based on rentals listed by Rent Tech Inc. ([www.renttech.com](http://www.renttech.com)) as of Dec. 31, 2000.

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## SEN Is Sensitive To Your Spirit

By Heidi Anderson

For more than 20 years, the nonprofit Church Street Integral Counseling Center, operating out of a Victorian flat near 30th Street, has offered sliding-scale psychological counseling to individuals, couples, and groups in and around Noe Valley.

Now, the Church Street ICC is also the international headquarters for the Spiritual Emergence Network (SEN), a group of counselors who provide information, referrals, and support to people experiencing difficulty with "psychospiritual" growth.

According to SEN Director Karen Trueheart, the organization was founded in 1978 by Christina Grof and her husband Stanley Grof, to bring understanding and respect for psychospiritual growth to the mental health profession. The Grofs maintained that "spiritual growth is as essential as emotional growth," says Trueheart. "It's part of the normal growth process, but sometimes its symptoms can be misinterpreted as those of a mental illness."

By 1994, Trueheart notes, the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual (DSM-IV) of the American Psychiatric Association had come to support the Grofs' insights by including spiritual and religious issues under its category of conditions that are not mental illness but which may lead people to seek mental health services.

"This recognition has opened the door for a specialization in psychospiritual issues," says Trueheart (her married name for 36 years and not, she says, one she adopted because of her profession).

SEN co-founder Christina Grof coined the term "spiritual emergency" to refer to a "crisis which occurs within a healthy, life-transforming process of growth and change."

Such a crisis, explains Trueheart, can be triggered by many situations, includ-

ing the death of a loved one, the birth of a child, the loss of a job or relationship, major surgery, or a near-death experience.

"These events can result in confusion and a questioning of identity, your place in society, or your relationship with the Divine," Trueheart says. Other common symptoms are a sense of fear and isolation, and difficulty coping with daily life.

Trueheart says SEN counselors have helped many clients in their late teens or early 20s, who may be dealing with a difficult transition in life, such as going off to college.

"A young person, who has just left home for the first time, may go for a Saturday afternoon hike on Mount Tam and feel for the first time in their life a very strong connection to nature, almost a feeling of oneness with the universe," says Trueheart. "They may encounter an owl and see it as a symbol of wisdom, or they'll spot a lizard and it will bring about feelings of transformation for them. They may even experience what could be considered a mystical experience."

"Then they go back to their dorm and call their parent to tell them what they've experienced. The parent becomes concerned that perhaps something is wrong with their child and that this is the onset of some sort of psychotic break. That's when the parent or young person makes the call to us."

While, in some cases, clients truly do need to be referred for medication or hospitalization, often they just need to talk with a "spiritually aware" counselor for three or four sessions, to help them through the crisis, Trueheart says.

"In a culture which has not understood spiritual development, this gift of being heard and understood by a knowledgeable and supportive listener can be life-altering."

Trueheart says several clients who have come to SEN lately have been high-tech workers used to putting in a 60-hour workweek who've taken time off from

their jobs to go on a "meditation retreat."

"The retreat stirs up feelings they're not familiar with," says Trueheart, "because they've never done anything like this before and they become overwhelmed."

In situations like this, SEN counselors might reassure them that their feelings are normal. They also might recommend taking a break from the meditation practice.

SEN offers a telephone referral service for people throughout the United States and Canada who think they may be experiencing difficulties associated with psychospiritual growth. The service is staffed by graduate students from the School of Professional Psychology at the California Institute of Integral Studies (CIIS) and provides referrals to licensed mental health professionals in the caller's area. People living in Noe Valley or elsewhere in the Bay Area are welcome to seek an in-person consultation at the Church Street office, says Trueheart.

"Often our clients feel a huge sense of relief afterward. Many cry because they feel so much better, knowing that the inner experience they're dealing with is valid."

For more information on the Spiritual Emergence Network, call 415-648-2610 or visit the web site at [www.senatciis.org](http://www.senatciis.org). The street address for SEN is 1782 Church Street. Trueheart says fees range from \$25 to \$70 per session, but are "income-sensitive," depending on what clients can afford. □

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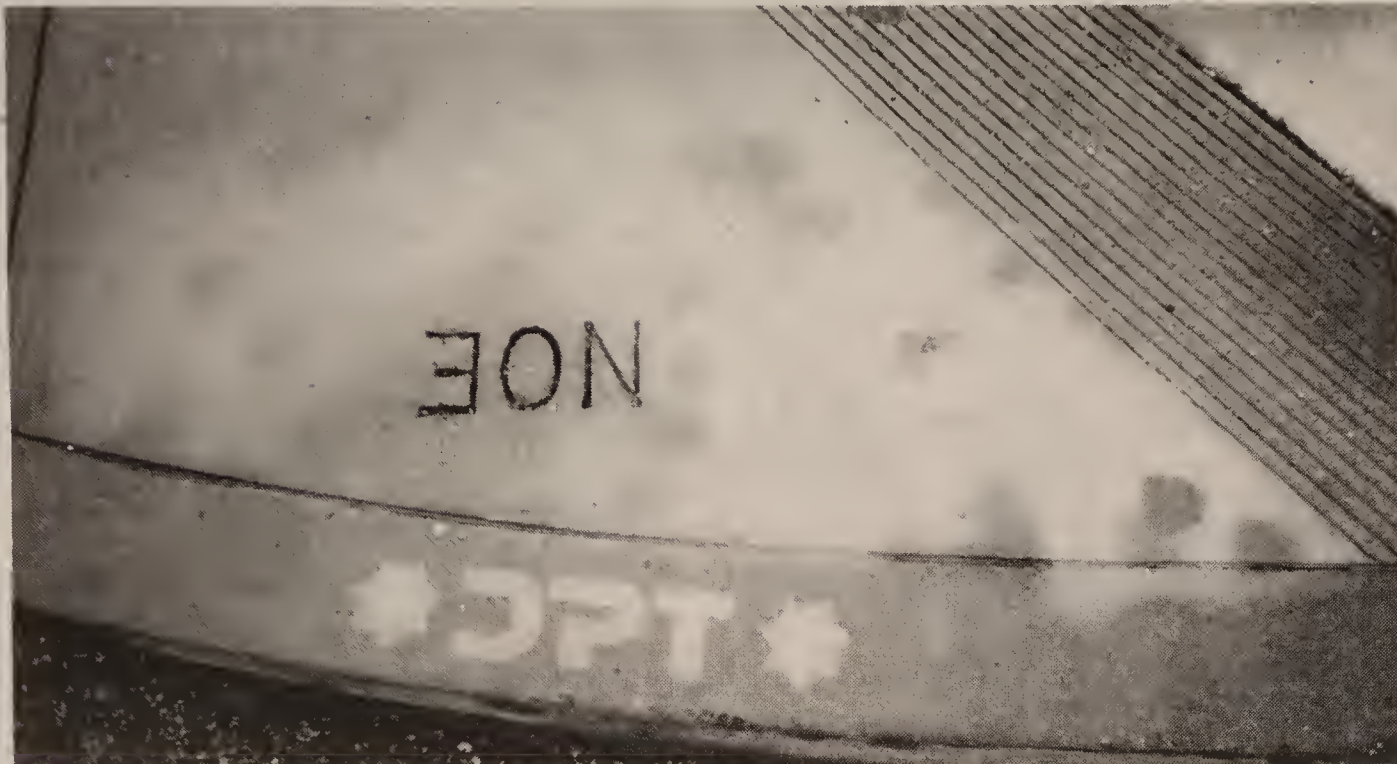
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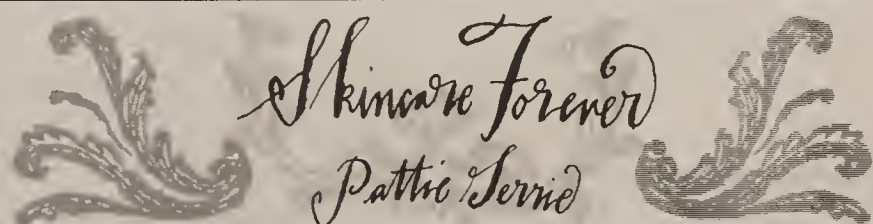
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**Look Down for the Answer.** Just as *dog* spelled backwards is *God*, *Noe* would be *eon*—a division of geologic time representing two or more eras. But no matter which way you read it, you'll be ticketed if you tarry.

Photo by Leo Holub



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## SHORT TAKES

### To Read Is But to Dream

Fairmount Elementary School, located at 65 Chenery Street, kicks off its annual Read-a-thon fundraiser on March 2 with a two-hour marathon reading session and sleepover at the school, starting at 6 p.m.

"Kids put on their pajamas and they have their sleeping bags with them and they do nothing but read books," says Hydra Mendoza, a Fairmount parent and the school's community outreach coordinator.

Last year, 95 children, chaperoned by parents and teachers, read books and slept the night away in their classrooms. Many more parents and children dropped by to read during the evening, but opted to go home and sleep in their own beds. During the following school week, the Read-a-thon continues with children, parents, and volunteers reading books to one another in both Spanish and English.

"This is a huge, exciting event for the kids," says Mendoza. "They love the idea of spending the night at the school. The entire Read-a-thon is a great event because it combines Fairmount's strong emphasis on literacy while helping us raise funds for the school library."

The students set goals for the number of books they plan to read during the week. Then they receive points for each completed book. They also obtain sponsors, who agree to donate either so much money per book or a fixed amount if the student reaches his or her goal. Last year the Read-a-thon raised \$2,000, which went toward buying new books for the school library. This year the school hopes to raise \$3,000.

Although Mendoza knows of no celebrity appearances on tap for this year's event, actor Robin Williams made a surprise appearance at last year's sleepover. He spent a few hours going from classroom to classroom reading to the children. Before he left, he presented the school with an autographed picture.

Mendoza encourages those who'd like to volunteer for the Read-a-thon to call the school at 695-5669.

If you prefer working with your hands to reading a book, Fairmount also is looking for volunteers to participate in its yearly Garden and Maintenance Work Day on March 24 from 9 a.m. to noon. "No experience is necessary," says Mendoza.

Volunteers are needed to tend to the Fairmount grounds and garden, including the 169 bulbs recently planted by students and parents. Assistance also is needed inside the school building to install bookshelves in classrooms, hang new curtains, and make small repairs.

For more information on the Work Day, call Fairmount at 695-5669.

### A Trio of Local Authors

Three Noe Valley writers, Cara Black, Heather Drohan, and Ruthanne Lum McCunn, will be reading from their latest novels at the Noe Valley Library on Saturday, March 3, at 2 p.m.

Cara Black is the author of two mysteries, *Murder in the Marais* and the new *Murder in Belleville*, featuring fearless Parisienne detective Aimée Leduc.

Heather Drohan, a CPA who has worked in investment banking, reads from her first book, *False Alarm*, a comic novel about the chaotic life of a woman "trying to do it all," set in Noe Valley.

Ruthanne Lum McCunn's latest, *The Moon Pearl*, provides a glimpse into the world of 19th-century women who stand up to the traditional expectations of Chinese culture. The Noe Valley—Sally Brunn

Library is located at 451 Jersey Street. For more information call 695-5095.

Ruthanne Lum McCunn will also be participating in the San Francisco Public Library's "Writers on Writing" program. She will discuss her work on Sunday, March 11. Hong Kong-born McCunn has published seven books dealing with the experiences of Chinese people in America, including the novels *Wooden Fish Songs*, *Sole Survivor*, and *Thousand Pieces of Gold*. Her nonfiction examines Chinese proverbs and the influence of Chinese culture on America. The March 11 program will be 1 to 4 p.m., in Community Meeting Room B at the Main Library, 100 Larkin Street.

### Killing My Lobster at Victoria

"The avant garde never looked so cheap or so damn good." That's the *San Francisco Bay Guardian's* take on the Hi/Lo Film Festival, to be held this year on Friday, March 30, through Sunday, April 1. The festival came by its name because it presents "high-concept, low-budget films for the adventurous and disenchanted," according to co-directors Brian Perkins and Mark Vogl.

After a modest start in 1997, when the local production company and comedy collective Killing My Lobster first organized the festival, it has grown in popularity, and hundreds now attend the three-night festival each year. True to its low-budget image, tickets cost just \$6 per show.

The films selected for the festival range from animations, short narratives, and abstract imagistic explorations to micro-features, documentaries, and uncategorizable creations. They all have two things in common, though — they are low-budget and high in originality. One of the group's official slogans is "\$40 million can kill a good idea."

Films by five local filmmakers join others from around the world. They are Bryan Boyce (*Election Collectibles* and *Special Report*), Anne Maguire (*I Like Men*), Courtney Booker and Greg Rozum (*Lesson One*), and Jeremy Solterbeck (*Moving Illustrations of Machines*).

There will be a total of 18 short films grouped into two programs. All films will be screened at the Victoria Theatre, 2961 16th Street, and each program will be shown twice. Program I plays Friday at 8 and Saturday at 10 p.m. Program II will be shown Saturday and Sunday at 8 p.m.

For a list of which films are in which program, and lots of other information, check out the festival's web site at [www.killingmylobster.com](http://www.killingmylobster.com), or call the "lobster line" at 267-0642.

### Anarchists Organize Book Fair

Paul Krassner and Michelle Tea, among other authors, will be reading from their works at the Sixth Annual San Francisco Anarchist Book Fair on Saturday, March 24.

Krassner is a well-known leftist commentator and humorist, and author of several works including *Sex, Drugs, and the Twinkie Murders*. Michelle Tea is the local lesbian author of *Valencia* and *The Passionate Mistakes and Intricate Corruption of One Girl in America*.

The fair will host about 60 anarchist groups and alternative book, magazine, and publishing people, selling and distributing their work. A coffee bar and art show are also planned. The fair will take place at the San Francisco County Fair Building (just inside Golden Gate Park near Ninth Avenue and Lincoln Way) and will run from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Bound Together Books, an all-volunteer, collectively operated anarchist bookshop for the past 25 years, is sponsoring the event. Call the shop at 431-8355 for more information.

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## SHORT TAKES

### Glen Canyon Flower Walks

Getting in the mood for spring? Friends of Glen Canyon Park is holding three Spring Flower Walks, the first of which will be on Saturday, March 10.

Richard Craib, president, and Jean Conner, vice president of the group, will lead a two-hour guided tour of the park, naming the local flora and describing their life cycle, history, and role in Native American culture. Footsteps to Spring, Pink Flowering Currant, and California Poppies are just a few of the species that may show up at the March walk.

This is the fourth year that the Friends has sponsored the walks, and based on past experience, Conner suggests wearing sturdy shoes with good tread. For some, a walking stick will also be helpful. The terrain is a mixture of flat and hilly places. Due to the narrow trails, it would be better to leave the dogs and young children at home.

The walking group will meet at 10 a.m. at the picnic tables behind the park's recreation center. The best way to get to the center is to use the park entrance at Elk and Chenery streets. If there's only a light rain, the walk will still be held, but a steady rain will cancel the event.

Additional walks have been scheduled for April 14 and May 12. For more information, call Jean Conner at 584-8576 or Richard Craib at 648-0862.

### Mixers for Writers & Artists

As a creativity coach practicing in Noe Valley for the last two years, Robert Ressler has worked with many artists and writers who don't have much time to mingle with their peers. That's why he's decided to begin a series of "Salonshops" every first and third Friday of the month, from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. The first two Salonshops in the series will be held on March 2 and March 16.

"Many artistic pursuits are solitary," says Ressler. "Combine that with the high cost of living in the Bay Area and most artists don't have much time to hang out with other artists. I figured I'd start something whereby artists would make sure and allot time in their schedules to gather together for creative stimulation, conversation, and community instead of waiting for this to evolve by chance."

The Salonshops will be hybrid events—part salon, part workshop. Each event will include a presentation—a taped interview or documentary involving a well-known artist or writer, or a live reading or slide show by a guest artist. Following the presentation, Ressler will lead a discussion among the attendees. "I want people to feel like they're in their own living room and connected to everyone else in the room," says Ressler. "I also want these

events to make artists feel inspired about their work and have faith in their work."

At the March 2 event, Ressler plans to show a documentary about Guerilla Girls, a group of feminist artists, writers, and performers who fight discrimination, dubbing themselves "the conscience of culture." Other Salonshops will feature taped interviews with writers Toni Morrison, Barbara Kingsolver, and Susan Sontag, and artists Wayne Thiebaud and Chuck Close.

Ressler is limiting attendance at each Salonshop to 6 to 12 people, on a first-come, first-served basis. When you call to make a reservation, he'll tell you the program's location in Noe Valley. Admission to each Salonshop is \$15 per person. "It's going to be a very informal event," says Ressler, "and refreshments will be served."

For information and registration, contact Robert Ressler at 289-2212 or visit his web site at [www.creativitysupport.com](http://www.creativitysupport.com).

### Party for a Good Cause

The American Cancer Society's 11th annual creative black-tie Gala promises an "Escape to Paradise." This year's event, to be held March 17 at the San Francisco Gift Center Pavilion, is expected to attract 2,000 people from around the Bay Area and will benefit the Society's research, education, and patient service programs.

Throughout the evening, guests will have the opportunity to bid on heavenly travel adventures—such as an African safari. They'll also enjoy live music, casino gaming in a penthouse overlooking San Francisco, and a silent auction. Some of San Francisco's finest restaurants will provide an abundant array of hors d'oeuvres.

"The San Francisco Gala is the American Cancer Society's only grassroots fundraiser in the United States that is fully organized by and targeted toward an up-and-coming 20-something and 30-something crowd," says Theresa Stephenson, a member of the 26-person committee planning the event. "These volunteers are attorneys and financial executives by day, and a dedicated group of event planners by night. When you think about it, almost everyone is touched by cancer, either directly or through a friend or family member. So it's no wonder the commitment to raise funds is so strong in our group."

Special guests are invited to kick off the evening with a VIP party at the Gift Center prior to "Escape to Paradise." At this gathering, the Society will recognize the generosity of lead sponsors such as Clear Channel Communications, Latham & Watkins, and Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe. VIP guests will enjoy exclusive entertainment and food and beverages from 7 to 8:30 p.m. The Gala begins at 8:30 p.m.

Tickets to "Escape to Paradise" can be purchased by calling 510-594-1400 or visiting [www.ticketweb.com](http://www.ticketweb.com). Gala tickets are \$95 in advance and \$125 at the door. VIP party tickets, which include Gala admission, are \$175. For information, call Dawn Yalovac at the American Cancer Society at 415-394-7100, ext. 306.

This month's Short Takes were written by Kathy Dalle-Molle, Victoria Colgan, and Karol Barske.

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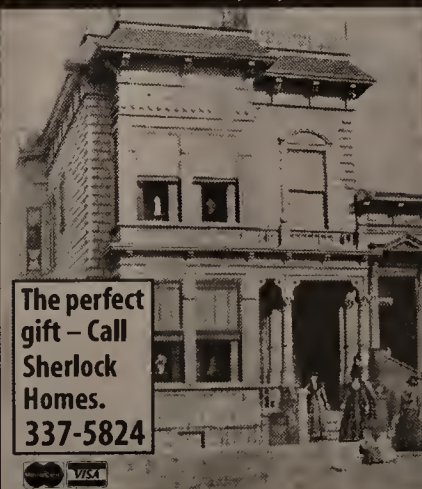
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# MARCH 2001

**NOW:** The AIDS/HIV NIGHTLINE needs volunteers; call 984-1902 for information.

**NOW:** The St. Anthony Foundation needs VOLUNTEERS for its 12 homeless service programs, including people to serve lunch at the St. Anthony Dining Room. 241-2600.

**MARCH 1:** A number of restaurants, including Miss Millie's, the Dolores Park Cafe, Bangkok 16, and Mariachi's Taqueria, will donate a portion of today's proceeds to San Francisco Women Against Rape. 861-2024, ext. 301.

**MARCH 1:** The fifth annual BARK & WHINE BALL, hosted by Critter Lovers at Work (CLAW) to benefit the SPCA's Cinderella Fund, features a cocktail buffet for people and canines, and a silent auction. 7-10:30 pm. Old Federal Reserve Bank Building. 522-3535.

**MARCH 1-3, 9 & 10:** CHOREOGRAPHER Cheryl Chaddick's dance ensemble, Company Chaddick, performs *Degrees of Change*. 8 pm. Theater Artaud, 450 Florida St. 621-7797.

**MARCH 1-25:** A Traveling JEWISH THEATER premieres Corey Fischer's play *See Under: LOVE*. Thurs. - Sat., 8 pm; Sun., 2 and 7 pm. 470 Florida St. 399-1809.

**MARCH 1-31:** "The Truth About Cats and Dogs" is a diverse exhibition of PAINTINGS, prints, and photography featuring human's best friends; well-behaved dogs invited. Reception March 2, 7-10 pm. City Art Cooperative Gallery, 828 Valencia St. 970-9900.

**MARCH 1-31:** Mary Joy Scott and Monica Johnson show collaborative drawings and individual paintings in "BODYPARTS: An Exploration of the Body in Two Dimensions." Wed. - Sat., noon-5 pm. Space 743, 743 Harrison St. 777-9080.

**MARCH 2:** Cine/Club for teenagers offers a screening of *Raging Bull*. 7 pm. The Randall Museum, 199 Museum Way. 864-2026.

**MARCH 2:** ANGELA DAVIS speaks at a leadership conference sponsored by the Freedom Alliance of Culturally Empowered Students. 7 pm. University of San Francisco, Gillson Hall, 2130 Fulton St. Call 422-6482 to register.



The guitar brilliance of Peppino D'Agostino sounds out March 31 at the Noe Valley Music Series. *Gamma Photo SF*

**MARCH 2-9:** Fairmount Elementary School's READ-A-THON for students and parent volunteers begins Friday, 6 to 10 pm, and continues through the next week. 65 Chenery St. 695-5669.

**MARCH 2-24:** Doug Holsclaw performs his ONE-CHARACTER PLAY, *Don't Make Me Say Things That Will Hurt You*. Fri. and Sat., 8 pm. Theatre Rhinoceros, 2926 16th St. 861-5079.

**MARCH 3:** Three local writers read from their novels: CARA BLACK, *Murder in Belleville*; HEATHER DROHAN, *False Alarm*; and RUTHANNE LUM McCUNN, *The Moon Pearl*. 2 pm. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St. 695-5095.

**MARCH 3:** Venezuelan-born vocalist MARIA MARGUEZ performs with her trio at 8:15 pm. The Noe Valley Music Series at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 454-5238.

**MARCH 3 & 4:** The CONCERTO COMPETITION winners perform a free concert at 4 pm. Community Music Center, 544 Capp St. 647-6015.

**MARCH 3-31:** Graffiti artist Man One and L.A. painter Freddi Cerasoli exhibit their ART in a show contrasting club and street culture. Wed. - Sun., 2-7 pm; reception March 3, 7-11 pm. Culture Cache Gallery, 731 Florida St. 642-2360.

**MARCH 4:** Joan Shenkar introduces her new biography, *Truly Wilde: The Unsettling Story of DOLLY WILDE, Oscar's Unusual Niece*, with a slide show and talk. 2 pm. Jon Sims Center for the Arts, 1519 Mission St. 554-0402.

**MARCH 5-APRIL 16:** Mark Calkins teaches "Reading PROUST," a study and support group for readers of *The Guermentes Way*. Six Mondays except April 9, 7-9 pm. Harvey Milk Civil Rights Academy, 4235 19th St. 552-7200.

**MARCH 5, 12, 19 & 26:** An Al-Anon CRONES' CLUB, for women over 40, meets Mondays at 6:30 pm. Bethany Church, 1268 Sanchez St. 647-8393.



Noe Valley resident Barbara Klutinis presents her film *Journey, Swiftly Passing*, on March 22 at S.F. Cinemathèque.

**MARCH 6:** ADAIR LARA discusses her memoir, *Hold Me Close, Let Me Go: A Mother, a Daughter, and an Adolescence Survived*. 7 pm. The Jewish Community Center, 3200 California St. 292-1286.

**MARCH 6, 13 & 27:** Preschool STORY TIME, a read-aloud program for ages 3 to 5, begins at 10 am. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St. 695-5095.

**MARCH 7:** VIDEOS for preschoolers ages 3 to 5 include *Curious George Rides a Bike*, *Mole and the Egg*, and *Great White Man-Eating Shark*. 10:15 and 11 am. Mission Branch Library, 300 Bartlett St. 695-5090.

**MARCH 7:** Speakers from CARAL/ACCESS/Medical Students for Choice discuss women's reproductive rights, in one of City College's programs honoring Women's History Month. 6:30-7:30 pm. Castro-Valencia Campus at James Lick, 1220 Noe St. 239-3899.

**MARCH 7:** Documentary PHOTOGRAPHERS Ken Light and Kerry Tremaine present a slide show of crucial events and current issues, "Witness in Our Time." 7:30 pm. Modern Times Bookstore, 888 Valencia St. 282-9246.

**MARCH 7, 14, 21 & 28:** The LAPSIT at the Noe Valley Library features songs, stories, and fingerplays for infants, toddlers, and their parents. 7 pm. 451 Jersey St. 695-5095.

**MARCH 8:** A Grand PURIM CELEBRATION sponsored by Chabad of Noe Valley offers tradition, music, refreshments, and a children's masquerade contest. 6:30-9 pm. 347 Dolores St. 821-7046.

**MARCH 8:** Creativity Explored celebrates the opening of a new GALLERY with an exhibit of box art, a silent auction, and a booksigning of *Life Itself* by Michael Bernard Loggins, author of *Fears of Your Life*. 7-9 pm. 3245 16th St. 863-2108.

**MARCH 8-APRIL 14:** BRUCE PACHTMAN's solo show *Don't Make Me Look Too Psychotic* begins at 8 pm on Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays. Bannam Place Theater, 50A Bannam Place. 986-2701.

**MARCH 9:** SCOTTISH FOLK DANCE music is performed by violinist Alisdair Fraser and pianist Paul Machliss. 8:15 pm. The Noe Valley Music Series at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St.

**MARCH 10:** ROSE GARDENING expert Anya Malka-Halevi joins the San Francisco League of Urban Gardeners (SLUG) for a discussion of all aspects of growing roses. 10 am-2 pm. Garden for the Environment, Seventh Avenue at Lawton. 285-7584.

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# CALENDAR



**MARCH 10:** JUNIOR ENGINEER DAYS sponsored by the Golden Gate Model Railroad Club offer participants a chance to help run their huge model train layout. 11 am–4 pm. The Randall Museum, 199 Museum Way. 346-3303.

**MARCH 10:** Frank Runyeon performs *Afraid! The Gospel of Mark*, a one-man performance based on the writings of the evangelist. 7 pm. St. Paul's Church, 29th and Church. 648-7538.

**MARCH 10:** The Noe Valley Music Series celebrates its 20th ANNIVERSARY with a concert by Manning, Kasson, and Darter. 8:15 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 454-5238.

**MARCH 10 & APRIL 14:** The Friends of Glen Canyon Park sponsors SPRING FLOWER WALKS. Meet at 10 am at the picnic tables behind the Glen Park Rec Center. 584-8576 or 648-0862.

**MARCH 11:** P-FLAG's monthly meeting features a discussion of the coming-out process for families, with psychologist intern Samantha Clemens. 2–4 pm. St. Francis Lutheran Church, 152 Church St. 921-8850.

**MARCH 11:** A DOUBLE-REED concert features oboists Roger Wiesmeyer and Evgeny Izotov, and English horn player Julie Ann Giacobassi. 4 pm. Noe Valley Chamber Music at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 333-9444.

**MARCH 13, 20 & 27:** Edward Jones Investments offers a free class in the basics of stocks, bonds, and MUTUAL FUNDS. For reservations, call 282-4079.

**MARCH 13 & 27:** Glen Park Library hosts a preschool STORY TIME, with crafts. 10 am. 653 Chenery St. 337-4740.

**MARCH 14:** "You Already Know What to Do" is a discussion of INTUITION and its uses, by Sharon Franquemont. 12:10–1 pm. UCSF Brown Bag Lecture Series, Health Sciences West, Room 300, 513 Parnassus Ave. 476-4394.

**MARCH 15:** The Golden Gate AUDUBON SOCIETY meets at 7 pm at the Randall Museum. 199 Museum Way. 282-0261.

**MARCH 15:** The Noe Valley Music Series hosts a CONCERT of jazz/Indian/bluegrass featuring percussionist Zakir Hussain and saxophone player George Brooks. 8 pm. Cowell Theater, Fort Mason. 454-5238.

**MARCH 15–APRIL 26:** Artwork by FRANK PIETRONIGRO will be on display at Value Vacation. Reception, Thursday, March 15, 7 to 9 pm, features jazz musicians Mandy Flowers and Noel Melanio. 3901 23rd St. 824-2550.

**MARCH 16 & 17:** "Rite of Spring," a CREATIVE WORKSHOP, uses drawing, movement, writing, guided imagery, and ritual to explore themes of new beginnings. Friday, 6:30–9 pm; Saturday, 10 am–5 pm. Studio 320, 3435 Cesar Chavez St. 242-9538 or 586-2779.

**MARCH 17:** The American Cancer Society's 11th annual BLACK-TIE GALA, "Escape to Paradise," features hors d'oeuvres, wine, casino gaming, dancing to live music, and a silent auction. 7 pm–1 am. The Gift Center Pavilion, 888 Brannan St. 394-7100, ext. 306.

**MARCH 17 & 18:** A PSYCHIC HEALING FAIR at Array of Light features sample tarot readings and massage. 4291 24th St. Call for times. 642-9249.

**MARCH 18 & 25:** Pat Murphy facilitates a SUPPORT GROUP for women who lost their mothers before the age of 21. Group meets two Sundays, 10:30 am–5:30 pm, in the Mission. 978-3365.

**MARCH 19–APRIL 23:** The Integral Yoga Institute offers a class on the scriptures of the BHAGAVAD GITA, and ways to apply its spiritual principles to daily life. Mondays, 6–7:30 pm. 770 Dolores St. 821-1117.

**MARCH 20:** Preschoolers 3 to 5 can view FILMS, including *The Caterpillar* and *the Polliwog*, *Chicka Chicka Boom Boom*, and *Pete's a Pizza*. 10 and 11 am. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St. 695-5095.



Degrees of Change soars at Theater Artaud beginning March 1. Photo by R.J. Muna

**MARCH 20:** The Gray Panthers hosts a discussion with new District 10 Supervisor Sophie Maxwell. 12:30–3 pm. First Unitarian Church, 1187 Franklin St. 552-8800.

**MARCH 22:** "The Chinese of Marin in CHINA CAMP," William Cox's lecture and slide show sponsored by the S.F. History Association, describes the beginnings of the local shrimping industry. 7 pm. Ebenezer Lutheran Church, 678 Portola Dr. 750-9986.

**MARCH 22:** UPPER NOE Neighbors will hold its annual election of officers at this meeting, scheduled a week earlier than usual. 7:30 pm. Upper Noe Rec Center, Day and Sanchez. 285-0473.

**MARCH 22:** Noe Valley resident Barbara Klutinis' film *Journey, Swiftly Passing*, is included in the S.F. Cinemathèque's program of new local film and video. 7:30 pm. Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, 701 Mission St. 978-2787.

**MARCH 23:** DOROTHY LEEDS, author of *The Seven Powers of Questions*, discusses methods of asking for more. 7–9 pm. Lovejoy's Tea Room, 1351 Church St.

**MARCH 24:** GARDEN DAY at Fairmount Elementary School needs volunteers to help with maintenance and repairs. 65 Chenery St. 695-5669.

**MARCH 24:** A WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH celebration features documentary films about women doing "men's work" during WWII. Older Women's League (OWL). 10:30 am–12:30 pm. Call 989-4422 for location.

**MARCH 24:** Voice contributor JANIS COOKE NEWMAN signs her new memoir, *The Russian Word for Snow*, to benefit Synergy School. 7 pm. Cover to Cover, 3812 24th St.

**MARCH 24:** Doors' keyboardist RAY MANZAREK and poet Michael McClure perform a concert of music and spoken word. 8:15 pm. The Noe Valley Music Series at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 454-5238.

## We're Not Fooling About the April Deadline

The *Noe Valley Voice* will enjoy printing your calendar announcements in the next issue, as long as you mail them to us by **March 15, 2001**. Send items to the *Voice Calendar*, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Or e-mail [zabarska@aol.com](mailto:zabarska@aol.com). The April issue will hit the streets on or before April 1. Questions? Call Karol at 285-6347.

**MARCH 28:** A SONGWRITING WORKSHOP kicks off the last Wednesday of the month at the Noe Valley Ministry. 6–9 pm. 1021 Sanchez St. Call 820-3920 for a reservation.

**MARCH 29–31:** Anna Deavere Smith's DRAMA *Fire in the Mirror: Crown Heights, Brooklyn, and Other Identities*, will be performed by Lick-Wilmerding High students. 7 pm. Ehrer Theater, 755 Ocean Ave. 333-4021.

**MARCH 31:** The fourth annual SILENT AUCTION and rummage sale at Harvey Milk Academy runs from 9 am to 4 pm, with a special \$5 preview from 8 to 9 am. 4235 19th St. 241-6276.

**MARCH 31:** A GUITAR concert by Peppino D'Agostino and Antonio Calogeto begins at 8:15 pm. The Noe Valley Music Series at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 454-5238.

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# STORE TREK

Store Trek is a regular *Voice* feature profiling new stores and businesses in Noe Valley and surrounding neighborhoods. This month we introduce an exotic rug emporium at 24th and Church, a doctor and an architect (who happen to be married to one another), and a constellation of small shops in "Baja Noe Valley" at 22nd and Guerrero streets.

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Nomad Rugs wants to be your neighborhood resource for handmade tribal weavings from Central Asia and the Middle East.

So in December, Nomad's owner, Christopher Wahlgren, picked up his carpets and moved from a small storefront at 22nd and Guerrero to more spacious quarters at Church and 24th streets. (You also may know Wahlgren from Artemisia, on Diamond Street. He shared garage space with the Mexican crafts shop before opening his own store.)

"Noe Valley is a vital neighborhood, and there is a lot going on," says Wahlgren, who has lived near 24th and Guerrero for the past seven years.

His new shop (in the old Lovejoy's location) has four times the room of the 22nd Street store. Also, during remodeling, Wahlgren raised the ceiling and installed better lighting to show off the intricate details of the 500 carpets in his inventory.

Most of his rugs are made from wool, dyed with natural dyes. "I like the geometric patterns and bolder colors of the tribal rugs," says Wahlgren. "They are more exciting and more authentic than the floral designs, which people used to consider the classic Persian carpet."

Wahlgren travels around the world in search of his wares — to Iran, India, Afghanistan, and the Caucasus. "I love to deal directly with the weavers and see the care that goes into making the rugs."

He stocks rugs from the Cultural Survival Project, which supports traditional weavers, including Turkmen refugees in Pakistan and Tibetan refugees in Nepal. Wahlgren also supports a cottage industry in Turkey called the *Ipek Yolu*, or Silk Road, in which a dyer supplies wool to women working in their homes.

At his new store, rugs, in short stacks, cover the floor. Among the standouts are a 7-by-10 Turkmen with a salmon-and-navy diamond design (\$2,100), an 8-by-10 Indian weaving in celadon and pale blue (\$2,400), and an 8-by-11 carpet in a red, blue, and vanilla pattern from Kazakhstan (\$3,200). Prayer rugs, throw pillows,



Christopher Wahlgren will share the top of his pile at Nomad Rugs.

Photo by Charles Kennard

flat-woven kilims, and other textiles for walls or furniture abound. And if you live in a Victorian, Wahlgren has a nice selection of runners "for those long hallways."

Home trials are recommended. "Taking home several rugs can really show a person how rugs work inside the home," says Wahlgren.

Nomad sells carpet pads, too, and provides services such as appraisal, delivery, and carpet cleaning. In addition, the shop can repair fringes and holes.

For a sampling of the rugs in stock, along with prices and individual histories, check out Nomad's very informative web site at [www.nomadrugs.com](http://www.nomadrugs.com).

The shop is open daily, except Mondays, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

—Alison Pence

**Levy Art and Architecture**  
3850 23rd Street at Vicksburg  
415-641-7320

Ross Levy and his wife Daphne Miller (and then-infant daughter Arlen) discovered Noe Valley the way many do: by accident. "We were looking for a home in a nice neighborhood when we heard about this great probate sale," Levy says.

The fates smiled, and the family landed their house in outer Noe Valley, or inner Glen Park. Five years later, Daphne Miller, M.D., practices medicine on Church Street (*see next item*), and husband Ross Levy runs an architectural practice at Levy Art and Architecture on the corner of 23rd and Vicksburg streets.

Levy's office, opened in November 1999, is a small, pleasant, no-frills space,



Architect Ross Levy (with son Emet) and staff hold up the corner of 23rd and Vicksburg.

Photo by Beverly Thorp

where many phones, each with a different ring, jingle constantly and a small army of people runs to answer them. The firm does renovations and new construction, and specializes in jobs that are environmentally responsible, using non-toxic materials and alternative energies.

You can see Levy's work in neighborhood spots like Cafe J on Church Street, a modernistic house at 65 Grand View, and the units in progress at Sanchez and Duncan, where the blue restaurant controversy took place a few years before Levy came on the scene ("There's No Green Light for That Blue Place," *Voice* October 1995).

Art from local artists adorns his office walls, and Levy tries to support the artist community by selling their work and holding openings in his shop. "We like to feel our work is artistic, too," he says.

No stranger to the area, Levy Art and Architecture was previously located in the old laundromat space where Chenery and Whitney intersect. Now Levy and Miller have planted more roots in the neighborhood: Daughter Arlen, now 6, is attending Synergy School. They also have a son, 2-year-old Emet, who goes to Debra King School. The foursome can be seen shopping at MikeyTom Market and, when their schedules permit, riding their bikes through the neighborhood.

Levy, who grew up in Palos Verdes,

says, "I could use it a little warmer here," but as he watches his business grow and his wife's practice prosper, he says he is sure they are here to stay.

—Doug Konecky

**Daphne Miller, M.D.**  
1448 Church Street at Cesar Chavez  
415-642-0333  
[www.drdaphne.com](http://www.drdaphne.com)

To many Noe Valleyans, the loss of Wind in the Willows at the corner of Church and Cesar Chavez this past June was a bitter pill to swallow. (High rents forced the 27-year-old nursery school to find new digs on Monterey Boulevard.)

But spirits perked up in September, when Daphne Miller, a physician and neighborhood mom, opened a family practice in the now-partitioned building at 1444 Church Street.

Miller's specialty is women's health, but as a family practitioner she provides the full spectrum of adult and pediatric medicine. She offers immunizations, well-baby checkups, pap smears, nutritional advice, stress reduction, and treatment for anything from colds and flu to heart disease and diabetes. She also speaks English, Spanish, and French.

Miller prides herself on treating the whole person, not just a set of physical symptoms. "I look at the sum total of what's going on, not only with the body but with the person's relationships—their total environment."

She also tries to balance Western medicine with alternative approaches. And, she makes house calls. "A visit with a newborn in the home at two or three days old allows me to do a full assessment," says Miller. "I check for lead paint in the house, see how mom and child are bonding, and see how nursing is going."

One home visit she made recently gave her an important clue as to what ailed her 92-year-old patient. "She'd been to other specialists, but still a swelling in her legs persisted. I went to her house, and I saw the chair she sits in most of the day. That was the problem. The best thing I did for her that day was to simply rearrange some furniture to improve her circulation!"

Miller is a private doctor and is not under contract with a health insurance plan (other than Medicare). This means that patients pay her directly, and it's up to them to get reimbursement from their insurance provider. She does, however, offer sliding-scale fees — \$80 to \$150 for



Dr. Daphne Miller's family practice welcomes patients of all ages. Photo by Beverly Thorp

the initial one-hour office visit or a house call; \$45 to \$90 for follow-up visits—and she will submit patients' bills to their insurance as a courtesy.

Currently, Dr. Miller has privileges at California Pacific Medical Center and San Francisco General Hospital. Before opening her practice in Noe Valley, she worked and taught in a faculty practice at the University of California at San Francisco. She graduated from Harvard Medical School and has been practicing medicine since 1993.

Miller says 80 percent of the patients she sees at her Church Street office live nearby. "Most of them walk here from home." In fact, so does Miller, who resides on the border between Noe Valley and Glen Park with her husband, architect Ross Levy (*see above*), and their two children, Arlen, 6, and Emet, 2.

Five months after she launched her practice, Dr. Miller is pleased to report that her patient list is growing rapidly. In February she led a pediatric first-aid workshop at Natural Resources on Castro Street. "My whole dream about how to provide family practice is starting to work."

Office hours are Monday, noon to 5 p.m.; Tuesday and Thursday, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.; Wednesday, 1 to 7 p.m.; and the first Saturday of the month, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. For an appointment, call 415-642-0333. To find out more information, go to "Dr. Daphne's" web site at [www.drdaphne.com](http://www.drdaphne.com).

—Heidi Anderson



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## STORE TREK

Lemonade  
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415-285-8734

Flirt  
3412 22nd Street at Guerrero  
415-648-1469

A couple of small boutiques have blossomed at the corner of 22nd and Guerrero, an area often dubbed Baja Noe Valley or the Trans-Mission.

If you're looking for inexpensive furniture and housewares from the '40s, '50s, and '60s, check out **Lemonade** at 3416 22nd Street. Marina Avila is the owner and collector of the shop's nostalgia, and has been at the 22nd Street location for two years.

"I try to find functional items, and I like to keep them in their original condition," she says. "My family lived on Fair Oaks Street, and we always went to garage sales and the Penny Market flea market in Alameda."

Avila keeps her eye out for collectibles with style. "But I also like to help my customers think of new ways to use old things," she says.

In Lemonade in January, I found a distressed dresser that could be used in the kitchen or dining room to hold linens or appliances; old bottles that would make attractive bud vases; and a selection of letters from old signs and marquees that could give a living space just the right architectural punch.

Avila carries a few new items as well, such as soaps by the European Soap Company, in bars or tiny squares, and candles by Votivo to create fragrance in the home. The shop is open Friday, Saturday, and Sunday from noon to 6 p.m.

Next door to Lemonade, at 3412 22nd Street, is **Flirt**, a coquettish little store featuring gifts for home and body. Owned by Jane Hartmann, Flirt opened in August



Jane Hartmann would like you to think of fun things at Flirt. Photo by Beverly Thorp

under the sign of the red handbag.

Hartmann attended the Academy of Art and favors the work of Alexander Calder, which is perhaps why her bud vases are made with wire and her candleholders are adorned with beads (\$20).

Hartmann shares studio space with a friend who makes handbags, and other local artists contribute jewelry and notecards. You can find super-soft slippers with bright silk flowers (\$48), handknit wool shawls made by "the lady across the street" (\$105), and silk charmeuse scarves with velvet patterns (\$68).

"This is fun for me," says Hartmann. "I grew up around retail, my parents were in retail, and my two sisters are in retail."

"Think fun things for chicks," she says, and you'll have a good line on Flirt, open Thursdays, 4 to 7 p.m.; Fridays and Saturdays, noon to 6 p.m.; and Sundays, noon to 5 p.m.

\*\*\*

Incidentally, nestled between Lemonade and Flirt is **Shear Delight**, a sunny, two-chair hair salon at 3414 22nd Street. You may recognize the name because the shop used to be located on 24th Street.

Craig Morton, the owner, has been cutting hair at Shear Delight since 1979. He moved the salon from 24th Street (near Diamond) in 1994. "I love our new location," says Morton. "We're off the beaten path, parking is easier, and we're more convenient to BART and Muni."

Morton shares his shop with Andrea Taylor, who has been cutting hair in the Noe Valley area for seven years. Taylor is a sales representative for Artec products, and does a lot of color, Morton says. "We do cuts, perms, and color—but no nails or facials," he advises.

Morton works Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Taylor is in the shop Thursday through Monday, 10 a.m. – 7 p.m. Shear Delight's phone number is 415-285-4243.

—Alison Pence



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282.4913



## Springtime Budget Choices For Traveling Noe Valleyans

Until your federal tax refund arrives, you might want to enjoy the sights and words of your frugal neighbors, who've roamed far and wide by clipping coupon ads from the *Noe Valley Voice*.

Near the bottom of the Readers editor's inbox was this pic from and of Anne Gamboni in Zagreb, Croatia, postmarked Sept. '00. For the record, she was not overlooked just because she moved to Glen Park. Why don't we say we're even, Anne.



Tireless self-promoters Bill and Lisa Yenne share the spotlight with their journal from back home in the Savoie region of France.



Five-year-old Natalie and her older sibling Meghan Helms, 6, bid us aloha. They're back in the 'hood now, but Kihei, Maui, sure was a cool place to be in January.



It wouldn't be March without a sight of Ireland, and longtime Noe Valley resident Mary Culpeper displays the *Voice*, while daughter Cepdei hoists the pint in County Connemara.

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3. Check the dial in phone number of your ISP. You may be using the wrong number for your type of modem.
4. Check the drivers for your modem. The newest driver files for your modem can be found on the manufacturer's website. Changing these can make a big difference.
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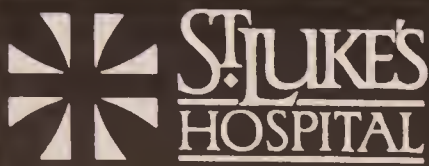
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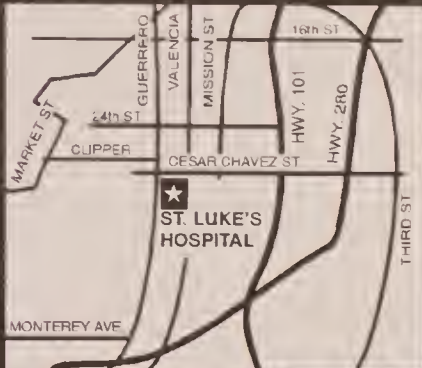
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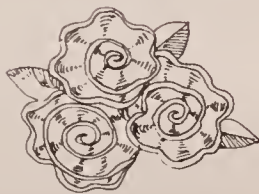
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## Janis Newman Tells Her Story

# A Memoir About Adopting a Baby From Russia

By Kathy Dalle-Molle

Noe Valley writer Janis Cooke Newman never planned to have children. In fact, in the opening chapter of her new memoir, *The Russian Word for Snow*, she seems downright repulsed by kids and families.

"I'd watch the families climbing out of their minivans and walk wide around them so I wouldn't be contaminated by the damp stickiness of their parenthood," she writes. "Watching them move across the parking lot, the mother unaware of the small chocolate-colored handprint on the seat of her pants, the father dragging a flowered diaper bag behind him, I'd shudder and walk cleanly away, a neat leather purse over my shoulder."

Then, her mother was diagnosed with breast cancer, and Newman's feelings about parenthood began to change.

"As my mother lost the ability to walk—from the cancer or the chemotherapy, nobody seemed to know which—I began to wonder what it would feel like to be pregnant.... Pregnancy seemed the antithesis of cancer; another condition that caused cells to multiply and divide, but with an entirely opposite result."

With only one fallopian tube and pushing 40, Newman underwent a variety of unorthodox treatments to help her become pregnant: acupuncture, Chinese herbs "that tasted like dirt," and a uterine alignment from a New Age masseuse.

She even persuaded husband Ken to pretend to be 17 and make love to her in their Toyota Celica, "parked in our own driveway, 20 feet from our bed."

Just as she was about to begin in-vitro fertilization—using the \$100,000 she'd received from the sale of her mother's house, knowing "I'd keep going until I used every bit of it"—she and Ken attended an adoption meeting and saw their son-to-be on a videotape shown during the meeting.

Immediately, the couple fell in love with the 10-month-old baby on the tape, who had been abandoned in a Moscow hospital. "He had enormous eyes and wispy brown hair that stood up on the top of his head. He was naked, lying on a white metal



Many "leaps of faith," and the power of love at first sight, brought young Alex together with his new parents Janis and Ken Newman.

Photo by Ken Newman

changing table and kicking his legs out behind him in little swimming motions.

"The baby looked like me," recalls Newman. "I had such a strong feeling about him." Within a week of seeing the naked toddler, Newman, now 45, had canceled her IVF appointment and launched her quest to bring the boy—eventually named Alex in honor of Ken's father—to the United States.

*The Russian Word for Snow*, which will be published by St. Martin's Press on March 7, chronicles the trying months during the summer of 1996 before the Newmans were able to legally adopt Alex. First, the couple spent three months completing complicated preadoption paperwork. Once in Moscow, they spent several heart-wrenching weeks trying to claim Alex, waiting for the signature to release him from the orphanage. Moscow was falling apart—deep in the throes of its first democratic election. President Boris Yeltsin's aides were predicting civil war; the subway the Newmans rode to the orphanage was bombed; and Gennady Zyuganov, the anti-American Communist candidate, looked as if he might become Russia's next president and put a stop to international adoptions.

"We felt completely helpless," recalls Newman. "The culture was so different there. It was amazingly corrupt. We could never get any information. Everything in Russia was so hard. We had no allies. We felt completely cut off."

But in 1997, when Alex had been home for about six months, she realized, "I had no history for him. I didn't know much about his background. The only thing I had to share with him was the history of how he became our son."

So she began writing this story for Alex. "There were no scenes, no dialogue. It was really terrible," she says. "I didn't know how to write the story. It took me about a year to figure out how to tell the story."

Her breakthrough came when she attended a Squaw Valley Writers Community workshop in the summer of 1998.

"That's where I really learned how to write and realized that what I was doing maybe could be a book," she says. "I got to work with a group of really wonderful writers there. They hated what I turned in, but they taught me how to use the devices of fiction to tell the story. I'd never written like that before."

As she continued to write Alex's story, she began to publish short excerpts from her work-in-progress as personal essays in the *Chronicle* and *Salon*.

"Getting those pieces published really kept me going," she recalls. "It also helped me to eventually get an agent and sell the book to a publisher."

Later that year, after she had completed about a hundred pages of her manuscript, Newman met local literary agent Amy Rennert at a travel writers conference at Book Passage in Marin.

Rennert agreed to look at the manuscript while on vacation. Two weeks later, she agreed to represent Newman, and Newman began writing a proposal for Rennert to shop around to New York publishers. Eventually, St. Martin's made an offer, and Newman spent most of last year writing the book, occasionally borrowing friends' houses or renting a room at the Zen Center for peace and quiet.

"It was a hectic year," says Newman. "It was the same year I was trying to get Alex into kindergarten. Sometimes I would just have to tell him, 'Go away right now so Mommy can write about how much she loves you.'"

This year also promises to be hectic. At the end of March, Newman will embark on an eight-week book tour, starting in the Bay Area and moving through Seattle, Portland, New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut. She also will be speaking at adop-

Continued on Next Page

## From The Russian Word for Snow

By Janis Cooke Newman

My son Alex, who is 2 years old, loves to play with the *matryoshka* dolls my husband and I bought from a vendor in Izmailovsky Park. Each doll is a different family member, and Alex likes to twist open the father, who is playing an accordion, to find the mother nested inside. One by one, he opens them all, the grandfather balancing a yellow balalaika on his knee, the grandmother holding a golden samovar, until he comes to a tiny baby with a red pacifier painted into its mouth.

When he's got them apart, purple and green and black half-bodies scattered across the carpet, I'm struck by how complete the family is: children, mother, father, grandparents. No one is missing, pulled out of place by death or desertion....

Alex's biological mother abandoned him in a Moscow hospital three days after he was born. She left without telling anyone, disappearing back to the Ukraine, leaving the orphanage to find a name for him. Because it was still winter, they chose for his last name the Russian word for snow.

Alex was the result of his mother's third pregnancy. Ken and I do not know whether he has a brother like the boy *matryoshka* who plays a flute painted around the curve of his head, or a sister like the *matryoshka* who carries a single spotted teacup. We don't know if his mother ever had the babies from these pregnancies, or why she chose to have him.

Alex loves the mother *matryoshka*. Sometimes he opens up the set just to her. Her painted dress is embroidered with puffy white sleeves, and she has round blue eyes and blonde hair. She looks much more like him than I do.

One day, I imagine that he will look at her small painted-on mouth and ask her the questions about his Russian mother that I cannot answer.

Excerpt from *The Russian Word for Snow: A True Story of Adoption* by Janis Cooke Newman (St. Martin's Press), reprinted by permission of the author.

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## Adoption Story Has Happy Ending

*Continued from Previous Page*

tion conferences in Chicago and Boston.

Born in Bergen County, N.J., Newman is the oldest child and only daughter in her family. Her parents divorced when Newman was in her mid-20s, and her father now lives in North Carolina (her mother is deceased). She has twin brothers, who still live in New Jersey and own a swimming pool store.

Newman attended a small liberal arts college in New Jersey, majoring in psychology. She then went on for her doctorate at the New School in Manhattan. She never practiced psychology, however, but worked instead as a computer

salesperson. She moved to San Francisco in 1980, because "Manhattan was aging me too fast."

She met husband Ken, 46, in 1983, and they have been married since 1990. Ken has a multifaceted career as a comedy writer for corporate trade shows, and as a character actor who has appeared on TV in *Midnight Caller* and *Nash Bridges*, as well as in plays at the Magic Theater. He also is an accomplished photographer, who shoots the photos that accompany his wife's newspaper and magazine articles.

Ken had always wanted children and had hoped Newman would eventually come around. "Ken has always had a natural rapport with kids, but until Alex, I just felt uncomfortable around children. They made me shy," she says.

"If I hadn't gotten Alex, I don't know if I would have adopted," she confesses.

Although she's heard stories of children who were neglected or abused in Russian orphanages, Newman insists that those situations are rare, "less than five percent. Everyone I know who has adopted from Russia has had a very good experience.

"It's kind of amazing," she adds. "At 16 months, when Alex came to live with us, he didn't talk. So when we brought him home, we would put him in a backpack and go on hikes and talk to him constantly. By the time he was 2½, he was chattering all the time. He just completely opened up.

"A lot about adoption involves a leap of faith," she continues. "If you think too hard about it, you'll just be paralyzed. You can do so much research that you never move beyond that phase. In our case, we

saw Alex and stumbled into the process blindly. I think that often turns out the best.

"Just do it. Don't intellectualize. Go with your gut. Do some research, but don't be too practical. We had no address or phone number for our contact in Russia. We put money in a Citibank account of his. That was a huge leap of faith—and good preparation for being a parent."

Newman knows firsthand that adoption is often an expensive proposition—it cost \$25,000 to adopt Alex. To help other couples who are not able to afford an international adoption on their own, Newman is donating 10 percent of the proceeds from *The Russian Word for Snow* to organizations such as the Domoi Foundation, a Mountain View-based nonprofit group that provides financial assistance to people wanting to adopt children from orphanages in Russia and Eastern European countries.

Although Newman expects to travel to Russia again someday with Alex, she says he is not yet interested in learning about his homeland.

"Right now, he is always telling me he was born in France, not Moscow," she laughs. □

*A book release party for The Russian Word for Snow will be held at Cover to Cover Booksellers at 3812 24th Street at 7 p.m. on March 24. The party will be a benefit for Synergy School (\$5 from each book sold will be donated to the school). Janis Cooke Newman will also be reading from her book on April 17 at 7:30 p.m. at A Clean Well Lighted Place for Books, 601 Van Ness Avenue.*

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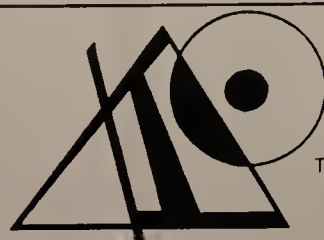
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Illustrated Reminiscences  
by Florence Holub

## Come Back, Mr. Lee, or, The Year of the Snake

This year at the end of January I received a birthday card from our good neighbors Marianne and Angus Pera, accompanied by a gift certificate for a dinner for two. How kind, how welcome this gift was, because we had been having trouble thinking of a place to go out to eat for my birthday that would be suited to our particular needs.

You see, my man Leo and I like to dine early because we fall asleep as soon as the sun goes down. Perhaps it's because the TV nightly news has become so boring we're lulled to sleep within minutes. Or maybe it's that we find our illegitimate leader to be so embarrassingly unpresidential we are forced to turn off the tube to quell our distemper.

In any case, we were thrilled to have the Peras make our choice for us. Their edible gift was redeemable at Alice's, a Chinese restaurant located on Sanchez Street, in a building that once housed



Florence had the good fortune to become friends with James Tong Lee. Photo by Leo Holub

When we got to know them as friends in the 1950s, we were delighted to be included in the family traditions. One was an annual excursion orchestrated entirely by Mr. Lee. Each Chinese New Year, he would invite us for a feast in Chinatown (or later, after Grant Avenue became so popular, we'd go to the Richmond District).

After strolling through the narrow streets, marveling at the busy stalls of flowers, fruits, and sweets, we would meet him at a restaurant of his choosing, and there we would be introduced to new and exciting tastes, elegantly

During all those Chinese New Years we celebrated, I learned a lot about Chinese cuisine but very little about the animals we commemorated, the Chinese version of the zodiac. So this year I decided to dig up some information to share with those of you who may be as much in the dark as I am.

In ancient China, the early stargazers based their world view on a lunar cycle lasting 12 years. Each of the 12 years in the cycle was represented by a specific animal with specific features.

One of the stories that has been handed down to explain the system goes like this: The Buddha decided to summon all of the animals on the earth to come to him, promising that in return they would be rewarded. Of all the animals living upon the earth, only 12 came. And they were honored for all time, in the order in which they arrived, by having a year bearing their name. The 12 came in this order: the rat, the ox, the tiger, the rabbit, the dragon, the snake, the horse, the sheep, the monkey, the rooster, the dog, and the pig. In return, each of these animals contributed some of their traits to humans, so that people born in that year would also share the same characteristics. Knowledge of their inherent strengths and weaknesses, based on their birth-year animal and its relationship to the other animals, would help people cope with and direct their lives.

I was born on the cusp of two signs, so sometimes I am a horse, but more often a sheep. After reading the little red Chinese astrology book, I felt extremely sheepish. It said that people of the sheep are accomplished in the arts, but are poor salespersons because they are uncertain about life and puzzled about which direction they should take. Sad but true.

People like Leo, born in the year of the dragon, are lucky, for the dragon is one of the most beneficial influences of all, symbolizing life and growth, as well as a lot of other fine qualities. In the East, the ancient Chinese held the dragon sacred, as the "gatherer of the clouds," whose assistance was vital to a rich harvest.

As for this year—the year of the snake—it is said that snake people are determined to get what they aim for and usually succeed. They are clever and wily in money matters, so this year should be favorable for business...but we can only hope and pray that the snake-in-the-grass now in the White House will not give us the business! □



### Bean Cake with Pork

From the kitchen of James Tong Lee

Put oil in pan. Make hot. Put in roast pork, sliced thin. Then a bowl of bean cake (the cooking kind), sliced. Salt. Cook a little bit, then put in a little water. Cook 5 or 6 minutes. Then add gravy:

1/2 teaspoon cornstarch  
1/2 spoon white powder (MSG)  
5 shakes (1 spoon) soy sauce  
A little bit (1/4 spoon) sugar  
A little water  
Green onions, cut in long pieces

Also add oyster sauce, if you have it. Salt and pepper. One drop of sesame oil. Wonderful!



the Noe Valley Community Store.

So at about 4 p.m. on a Thursday, off we flew to Alice's, where we actually found parking close to the restaurant's spacious dining room. As we entered the door, we were given exclusive, courteous attention, no doubt because we were the first and only dinner patrons! After we were seated, we admired the beautiful china and orchids encircling the room and clinked our glasses of Tsing Tao beer to wish each other *Gung Hay Fat Choy*, for it had just dawned on us that this was also the beginning of the Chinese New Year.

Our orders arrived and we shared them as usual—Leo's tasty salmon, a side order of fresh asparagus, and my favorite: spicy eggplant with bits of chicken, shrimp, and veggies in a tangy sauce. A saucer of fortune cookies completed our feast.

The atmosphere, the food, and the flowers all brought back memories of the many happy Chinese New Year celebrations we'd spent with James Tong Lee, the brilliant chef who worked for over 70 years for our dear friend Phoebe Brown, an architect who at one time was my husband's co-worker at the Planning Commission in San Francisco.

"Mr. Lee," as we knew him, was born in China, but immigrated with his father to the U.S. as a child. When still a young man, he began working as a "houseboy" (the term they used then) for Phoebe's father, Dr. Phillip King Brown. Eventually, he worked his way up to being in charge of the kitchen and the family's large home overlooking the ocean in Sea Cliff.

Over the years, Mr. Lee and Phoebe became completely devoted to one another. (In fact, he was with her when she died, in 1990 at the age of 86. Mr. Lee, who was also in his 80s, died six months later.)

prepared and presented. Mr. Lee seemed to know all the restaurant owners personally, so we would often get special treatment. And since he was an expert chef himself, he ordered all of the dishes for us.

Oh, the delicacies we savored! Mr. Lee's menus were sublime. My only regret was that I never got the hang of the chopsticks. Leo did fine, but the food I aimed for usually ended up in my lap. With a smile, Mr. Lee would kindly hand me a fork.

We also were invited to dinner at the Browns' house on many occasions. There James Tong Lee prepared his own five-star meals. His recipes were so remarkable, in fact, that Phoebe finally convinced him to collect them in a book. In the '80s, with the help of my printer son Eric, I illustrated and published the recipes in a small book with a gold jacket. My favorite recipe remains Bean Cake (Tofu) with Pork in Oyster Sauce (*see recipe, this page*).



As another small thank-you for all his kindnesses, each year I would make a calendar featuring the Chinese animal of the year, to hang on the wall of their dining room. Since this year, 2001, is the Year of the Snake, the illustration I am using for this column is the one I drew for the 1977 calendar, another "snake year" and the year 4675 on the Asian calendar. (Other snake years are 1917, 1929, 1941, 1953, 1965, and 1989. Were you born in one?)

In case you're wondering where I found a boa constrictor to model for me, I will tell you that it lives in an exhibit behind glass, at the Academy of Sciences in Golden Gate Park.

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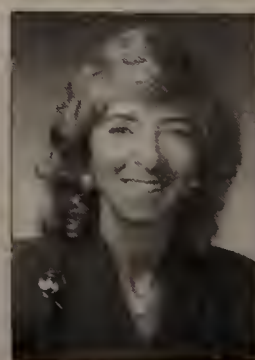
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# ARE WE THERE YET?

Family Adventures  
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## A Day at Ocean Beach

By Janis Cooke Newman

**A** trip combining pleasure and business is within the realm of possibilities," I say, reading from a little card called "The Wizard Predicts" that my son Alex has just gotten from a machine.

"What does that mean?" he asks.

"We're going to take a nice hike."

"Not until I arm-wrestle the mechanical guy in the Spiderman mask," he says. "Can I have some more money?"

"Personal gain may also be expected—perhaps sooner than you thought," I read, as I hand Alex another batch of quarters.

We're at the Musée Mécanique (Mechanical Museum) in the shadow of the Cliff House. Outside the windows, waves crash against rocks covered with pelicans, and seagulls fight over dropped hot-dog buns.

Sometimes, when you live in Noe Valley, you forget that the ocean is just a matter of blocks away. You start to think you live in a landlocked area bordered by Twin Peaks and the Mission that just happens to be foggy in the summer.

So our mission for today is to remind ourselves that the Pacific is practically in our backyard. That is, *if* we can get out of the Musée Mécanique.

"Can I have some more money for the guillotine?" Alex asks.

"I thought you did that one already."

"I like it when the head comes off."

We watch another beheading, and then Alex feeds some quarters to Laughing Sal, the mechanical fat lady who used to greet visitors at the old Playland-at-the-Beach, before it got turned into condos. I find Sal's hysterical laughing much creepier than the guillotine.

Alex has no interest in a machine that assesses one's love quotient, or the sepia-tone photographs of ladies in their underwear, which have been passed by New York censors. He does, however, drop several quarters into the Magic Ray, a machine that "reads you like a book." It informs Alex that he is "well-liked in business."

"I'm out of change," I say. "Let's go for our hike."

"I don't want to."

"You have a stubborn nature, but sometimes yield to the persuasion of those you love," I read from his little Wizard card. Then I take his hand and we go outside, where we catch up with my husband and the dog.



After leaving your quarters in the Musée Mécanique, located on a terrace just below the Cliff House, you can take a walk and have a picnic on Ocean Beach—if that's what's in the cards.

Photo by Ken Newman

To get to our trail, we walk the hill above the crumbling ruins of the old Sutro Baths. Below us, seagulls and dogs splash around in shallow pools, where at one time men in striped bathing costumes and women who swam in dresses gathered on Sunday afternoons.

At the end of the parking lot at Merrie Way, we come to the start of the Coastal Trail. This is one of the prettiest walks in San Francisco. It meanders along cypress-covered bluffs for four miles along the coastline, all the way to the Golden Gate Bridge.

We hike along the mostly flat trail, passing alien-looking ice plants that have just started to bloom. The air tastes salty and makes me think of beach vacations and sandy sheets.

At Land's End, about a mile in, we stop at the lookout where we can see the Farallons, the Golden Gate Bridge, and the Marin Headlands. My husband and I take in the view, the dog digs a hole, and Alex collects rocks.

Turning around, we head back along the trail to the Cliff House and Ocean Beach. "People swimming and wading have drowned here," says the sign at the entrance to the beach. There's a little drawing of a person drowning in the rip tide.

"Take all precautions against carelessness," I read to Alex from the Wizard card.

We throw a blanket on the beach and take out our picnic—cracked crab and my husband's famous ginger dipping sauce. (When you're busy reminding yourself that you live near the Pacific, you should

always eat something from it.) Sitting on the sand, my husband and I crack open bodies and claws, pulling white meat from all the little chambers and dipping it in the ginger sauce. Alex has Chinese noodles. The dog eats sand.

### My Husband's Famous Ginger Dipping Sauce for Crab (makes about 2/3 cup)

Combine:

1/2 cup rice wine vinegar  
1 tablespoon water  
1 tablespoon peeled and grated fresh ginger  
3 tablespoons mirin (Japanese rice wine)  
Pinch of salt  
2 tablespoons chopped scallions  
And serve with cracked crab.

At the water's edge, someone is flying a kite shaped like a tiger, and surfers as black and shiny as seals defy the rip currents and the sharks. Up on the shore, a little boy is carrying a pair of white-feathered wings that must have belonged to a seagull. They look like small angel wings dropped from heaven.

When there's nothing left of the crab

but little pieces of shell, we walk back up to the Cliff House for a drink and the sunset. Sitting on a lumpy couch in front of a fire and the stuffed head of a bison, we drink frothy Ramos fizzes (gin for us, virgin for Alex) that leave little "Got Milk" mustaches on our upper lips. Outside the window, the sky over the ocean turns pink and lavender and then dark blue as the sun dips into the water. A couple of tourists at the next table applaud the sunset.

"You are straightforward and honest with your judgment," I tell Alex. "So tell me, do you think this was a fun day?"

"Sure," he says. "But can I arm-wrestle Spiderman again?" □

Janis Cooke Newman's memoir, *The Russian Word for Snow — A True Story of Adoption*, has just been published by St. Martin's Press.

**Are We There Yet?** is a Voice feature about places to go and things to do with your kids. If there's an activity or outing you'd like to see explored, please e-mail

Janis Cooke Newman at  
j-newman@pachell.net or the Noe Valley Voice at jaxvoice@aol.com.

**S**tart by picking up some fresh cracked crab at either Bell Market on 24th Street or at CalMart in Laurel Village on California Street (it's on your way out to the beach). Drive out Geary until it becomes Point Lobos, and park in the Merrie Way parking lot. The trailhead for the Coastal Trail is at the far end of the lot. The Cliff House and Ocean Beach are just down the hill. The Musée Mécanique is on the bottom floor at the back of the Cliff House and is open Monday through Friday, 11–7; weekends, 10–8. (Visit the magical Giant Camera, too.) If you're taking public transportation, the 38-Geary will take you right there. And if you're feeling energetic, you can bike from Noe Valley, through Golden Gate Park out to the ocean, and get the added attraction of seeing the restored windmill.

—Janis Cooke Newman

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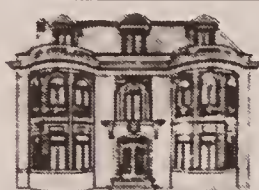


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# MORE MOUTHS TO FEED

By Maire Farrington

## Oliver Liam Wolf

Last year, with the birth of their second child expected soon, Min and Beau Wolf planned a quiet St. Patrick's Day celebration at home. As it turned out, their evening was anything but serene.

Min had just finished preparing dinner for Beau and 5 1/2-year-old son Cameron when things really started cooking. "The contractions started around 6 o'clock, and they were coming quick," says Min. She did manage to get in a few bites of corned beef and cabbage before realizing she'd better get to the hospital pronto. Friends came right away to collect Cameron. "Then we got in the car, and my water broke and I started to push," says Min.

The race to the hospital was an adventure in itself. Says Beau, "I got to the Safeway on Market Street, and I said, 'Let's just stop, we can do this here.' But I had Kaiser on the phone, and they said, 'No, just keep driving!'"

"Which I'm glad for, because I did not want to have the baby at the store!" Min laughs.

In their urgency to reach their destination, the couple may have been mistaken for holiday revelers. "My husband was driving like a banshee, with his hand on the horn the whole way," Min says. "It's Friday night, St. Patrick's Day, and Beau's going through the lights and no one seemed to care."

When the couple finally reached the hospital, "we didn't even show our Kaiser cards," says Min. "We ran in through the Emergency Room doors, and they were all looking at us like we were insane. The baby was coming and no one was moving. Finally, some woman came over—I guess it was a nurse—and she said, 'Oh, the baby's crowning—lie down on the floor.' I lay down on the floor with no blankets or towels, and with one push out he came, and Beau caught him."

Their audience in the E.R. clocked the dramatic entrance of Oliver Liam Wolf at 7:45 p.m. on March 17, 2000 (weighing 7 pounds and measuring 20 inches). "There were all these Emergency Room patients looking and watching," says Beau. "When it was all over, I looked around and everyone was patting me on the back and saying, 'Congratulations!'"

News of the Wolfs' achievement spread quickly through Kaiser Permanente Medical Center, and soon doctors and nurses from other departments were surrounding the couple as well.

"They were all so happy," Min says. "They said, 'Sorry that we're all smiling, but usually it's bad news in Emergency. Usually we don't get this kind of thing.'"

Now approaching his first birthday, Oliver has a full head of curly brown hair, big brown eyes, and a charming set of dimples. He is also maintaining his reputation as a track star. His feet are in constant motion, and he's shown a special talent for flexing his big toe as if to give the "thumbs-up" sign. "He's real active, and he needs a lot of distractions," says Dad.

"For the most part, he's really happy," notes Mom. "He's always smiling. Of course, he has his moments when he's a bit temperamental. He's not as self-sufficient as our older one was. Cameron could play by himself or sit in his swing for a long time, but Oliver wants attention. He likes to be picked up and held."

Min, 34, and Beau, 33, both natives of Southern California, met in a Hollywood bar in 1990. "We literally bumped into each other," Min says. "Someone pushed me into him."



Min and Beau Wolf raced to the hospital on St. Patrick's Day last year for the unexpectedly natural birth of son Oliver Liam. Big brother Cameron, who's 5 years old, is happy for the fun and companionship of his "little lamb."

Photo by Pamela Gerard

The two moved to San Francisco in 1991 and found a home on Sanchez Street in Eureka Valley. In March of 1995, they moved to their current residence on San Jose Avenue, and were married a few months later. Min is a full-time mother and home-maker, and Beau is a marine engineer.

Just two months after Oliver's birth, Beau was away at sea for 105 days. "Every 35 days, my ship would come into Oakland and I'd come home for a day," he says. "At first, when Oliver would see me walk in, he'd be almost crying. He'd be like, 'Who are you?' But then he got to know me and I got to know his personality and connect with him. I really like that connection with a really young baby. It's something you never experience unless you're a parent."

Dad and baby are now the best of pals, and Cameron likes to join in the male bonding. At home, the threesome get creative with blocks and Legos. And when reading aloud to the boys, Beau is a pro at inventing different voices for the picture-book characters.

On outings to the park, "we make up some game with a ball, and I'll be carrying Oliver around," says Beau. "We'll pretend to play *Star Wars* and chase each other around and play tag. Oliver always wants to get involved and touch things. He's a real player, even if it's just pretend."

Min was initially concerned that Cameron might have a hard time sharing the spotlight after four years of his parents' undivided attention. To her relief,

"Rarely has there been any problem," she says. "Cameron helps me all the time with Oliver. They like being together. Oliver is always laughing at what Cameron is doing, and Cameron likes to entertain. He calls him his little lamb."

The brothers like to bowl a few strings with the baby bowling set Cameron gave Oliver for Christmas, and baby delights in watching big brother play with his trains. "He's fun," says Cameron. "He comes crawling in my room and pours the big blocks out."

Three days a week, Oliver accompanies Cameron to the Tiny Tots program at Upper Noe Rec Center. While the 3- to 5-year-olds let loose with arts and crafts and show-and-tell, Oliver schmoozes with the moms and nannies. "He gets passed around," says Min. "People don't believe that he ever cries, because he's fine with everybody—even when the kids are making a lot of noise. They were playing instruments one day, and it was chaos. Oliver was just laughing the whole time. Then he fell sound asleep."

Oliver can entertain himself, too. He especially enjoys playing peekaboo with the boy in the mirror. "I don't think he knows it's him in the mirror," Beau says. "He sees another baby, and he'll try to go after him. He'll pull at his curls, and he's like, 'Gee, that baby's got funky hair! Wow, that's weird! Why's he doing that?'"

On weekends, when the family heads out for a stroll, all roads lead to 24th Street. The boys check out the latest toys

at the Ark, and "somehow we always end up at the Noe Valley Bakery," Min says. Oliver smacks his lips while Cameron noshes on brioche. "He's really not too sure about regular food yet," says Beau. Cheerios are about as far as he will go.

For Min, having a second baby has rekindled the pleasures of "how babies smell, and all the little coos and noises that they make. I love nursing Oliver and just being close to him," she says.

As father of two now, Beau has noticed the extra demands on his attention. "If I have Oliver in my lap, Cameron wants to come here, too. Or there will be some little problem like 'I need a glass of water right now!' There's a little competition, but I'm learning to deal with it. I'm like, 'Hey, we can work it out!'"

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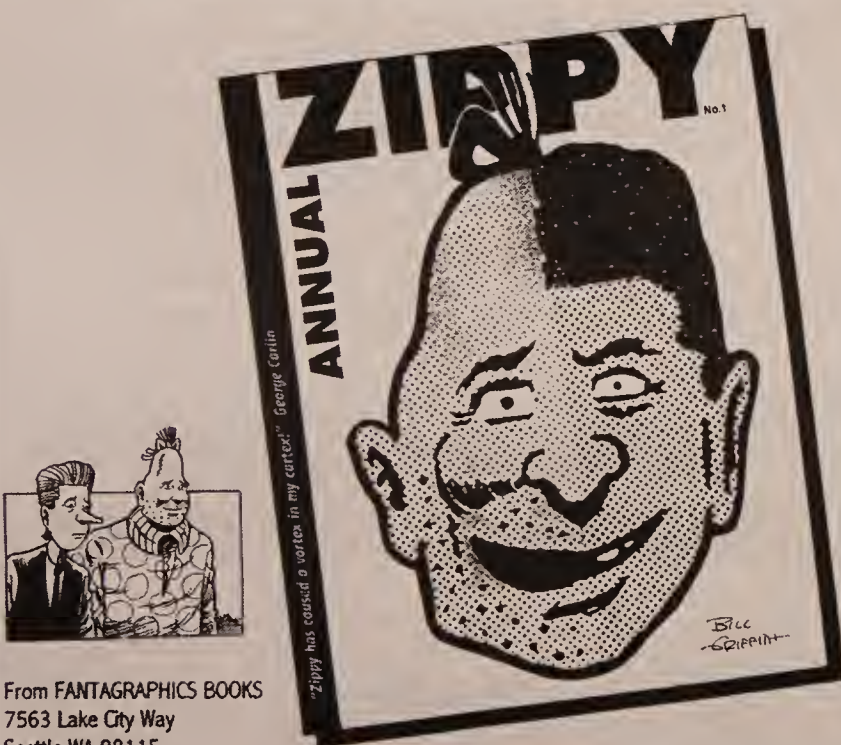
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## BOOKS *in our* BRANCH

This month's new books list, provided by librarians Roberta Greifer, Lea Rude, and Carol Small, features Akhil Sharma's tragicomedy of politics in India, a hiker's guide to California's native lands, and *A Bed Full of Cats* in the children's section. To check out a book's availability, call 695-5095, or visit the Noe Valley-Sally Brunn Library at 451 Jersey Street, just off Castro. Besides books, the branch offers magazines, CDs, videos, a sunny (or rainy) outside deck, a computer with Internet access, and the archives of the *Noe Valley Voice*. Hours are Tuesdays, 10 to 9; Wednesdays, 1 to 9; Thursdays, 10 to 6; Fridays, 1 to 6; and Saturdays, 10 to 6.

### Adult Fiction

◆ Sarah Smith, the author of two *New York Times* Notable Books, has created a mystery full of intrigue, passion, and witchcraft in *A Citizen of the Country*, a story set in the Roman catacombs of French Flanders.

◆ A corrupt official in contemporary India struggles to protect himself and his family from political betrayal in the powerful tragicomedy *An Obedient Father*, by Akhil Sharma.

◆ In *Martin Bauman, or, A Sure Thing*, acclaimed author David Leavitt spins an erotic, funny, and honest tale while exploring the life of a successful yet tormented young writer in 1980s New York.

◆ The *Abyssinian Chronicles* is a powerful and illuminating story of post-colonial Africa and the troubled coming-of-age of a Ugandan man, by the young African writer Moses Iseghawa, who has been compared to Salman Rushdie and Gabriel Garcia Marquez.

### Adult Nonfiction

◆ In her memoir *Extra Virgin*, Annie Hawes tells how she moved to the Italian Riviera after a chance encounter with a dilapidated, yet irresistible farmhouse.

◆ The eminent British scientist Jane Plant, Ph.D., offers women a well-researched guide in *Your Life in Your Hands: Understanding, Preventing, and Overcoming Breast Cancer*.

◆ Doris Grumbach's new literary memoir, *The Pleasure of Their Company*, is studded with recollections of such writers as Carson McCullers, Thomas Merton, and Virginia Woolf.

◆ Nancy Salcedo provides detailed information about 105 hikes in *A Hiker's Guide to California Native Places: Interpretive Trails, Reconstructed Villages, Rock-Art Sites, and the Indigenous Cultures They Evoke*.

Annotations by Lea Rude  
Librarian, Noe Valley Branch

### Preschool Story Time

◆ Children ages 3 to 5 will hear gripping tales at the library's *preschool story time*, 10 a.m., Tuesdays, March 6, 13, and 27.

### Films

◆ Preschoolers 3 to 5 can watch *films* such as *The Caterpillar and the Polliwog*, *Chicka Chicka Boom Boom*, and *Pete's a Pizza* at 10 and 11 a.m. on Tuesday, March 20.

### Lapsits

◆ Come and enjoy stories, songs, and finger-plays with your baby or toddler at 7 p.m. on Wednesdays, March 7, 14, 21, and 28.

### Children's Fiction

◆ At first the main character is heartbroken when she doesn't win the trip to Hawaii, but with the creative help of her sister Faye, all ends happily in *Aloha, Dolores*, by Barbara Samuels. *Ages 4 to 6*.

◆ Lee is distressed when his beloved cat Flora disappears for several weeks, but he finds out she had a very good reason in *A Bed Full of Cats*, an easy reader written and illustrated by Holly Keller. *Ages 5 to 7*.

◆ Chato really knows how to throw a good party in the barrio—except sometimes he forgets to invite the guest of honor—but it all works out well for *Chato and the Party Animals*, by Gary Soto, with illustrations by Susan Guevara. *Ages 6 to 8*.

◆ Carmen Teresa enjoys stories and traditional foods provided by members of her extended family, and collects recipes in a special new book, in *Salsa Stories*, by Lulu Delacre. *Ages 9 and up*.

◆ David Almond, in his thought-provoking novel *Kit's Wilderness*, describes a year in the life of a 13-year-old boy who hears whispers from the past, deals with the death of his grandfather, and makes friends with the school bully (who is also an artist). *Ages 10 and up*.

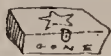
### Children's Nonfiction

◆ In *Here We All Are*, children's author and illustrator Tomie dePaola describes the period in his life which included his tap-dance lessons, the birth of his baby sister, the development of his artistic talent, and a little bit of getting in trouble. *Ages 5 to 8*.

◆ Author Judith St. George and illustrator David Small teamed up to produce *So You Want to Be President?* a distinctive look at presidents and our nation's history. (The illustrator was awarded the Caldecott Medal for this book.) *Ages 7 and up*.

◆ In *Pocket Pets*, Alvin Silverstein, Virginia Silverstein, and Laura Silverstein Nunn provide useful information on well-known pets, such as hamsters, gerbils, and rabbits, as well as some less well-known, such as chinchillas and flying squirrels. *Ages 7 and up*.

Annotations by Carol Small  
Children's Librarian, Noe Valley Branch



### Noe Novelists

◆ Noe Valley fiction writers Cara Black (*Murder in Belleville*), Ruthanne Lum McCunn (*The Moon Pearl*), and Heather Drohan (*False Alarm*) read from their work on Saturday, March 3, at 2 p.m.

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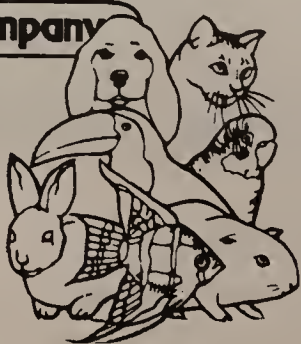
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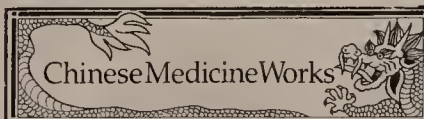
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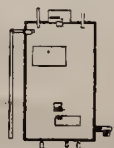
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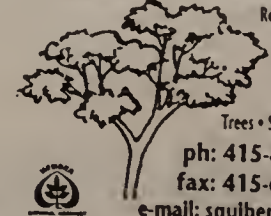
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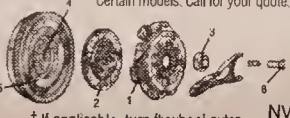
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Cars & light trucks

Fuel Inj., valve adj. extra if required

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\*\* 6-cyl, fuel injection, platinum plugs, 4x4 extra. Some models require value adjustments to complete service at extra cost.

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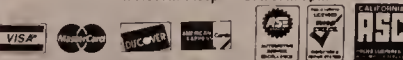
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## MORE GROUPS TO JOIN

**Advocates for Upper Noe Rec Center**  
Contact: Greg Clark, 719-8828  
Mailing Address: Call Greg Clark for info.  
Meetings: First Tuesday of month, in the auditorium at Upper Noe Rec Center, Day & Sanchez, 7 p.m.

**Castro Area Planning + Action**  
Contact: Linton Stables, 541-0344, ext. 230; [capa@home4us.org](mailto:capa@home4us.org)  
Meetings: Second Thursday of month, Eureka Valley Recreation Center, 100 Collingwood St., 7:30 p.m.

**Cesar Chavez Neighborhood Association**  
Contact: Ed White, 774-3237  
Mailing Address: First Church of God, 3728 Cesar Chavez St., San Francisco, CA 94110  
Meetings: Last Thursday of month, First Church of God, 7:30 p.m.

**Diamond Heights Community Association**  
Contact: Robert Dockendorff, 826-3867  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 31529, San Francisco, CA 94131  
Meetings: First Thursday of month, 7:30 p.m. Call for location.

**Dolores Heights Improvement Club**  
Contact: Amy Powell, 647-4228  
Mailing Address: 3732 21st St., San Francisco, CA 94114  
Meetings: Bimonthly; membership meetings semi-annually. Call for details.

**Duncan Newburg Association (DNA)**  
Contact: Dennis Downing, 441-9243; Keith Eickman, 282-8988; Evelyn Martin, 826-6734; or Deanna Mooney, 821-4045  
Mailing Address: 560 Duncan St., San Francisco, CA 94131  
Meetings: Held periodically. Call for details.

**East & West of Castro Street Improvement Club**  
Contact: Paul Kantus, 647-3753  
Mailing Address: 492 Douglass St., San Francisco, CA 94114  
Meetings: First Wednesday of month, Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St., 7:30 p.m. Call for summer holiday schedule.

**Eureka Valley Promotion Association**  
Contact: Lion Barnett, 255-3624  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 14137, San Francisco, CA 94114  
Meetings: Third Thursday (except July, August, and December), Eureka Valley Recreation Center, 100 Collingwood St., 7 p.m.

**Fair Oaks Neighbors**  
Contact: Paul Nixon, 647-5183  
Mailing Address: 163 Fair Oaks St., San Francisco, CA 94110  
Meetings: Call for details.

**Fairmount Neighborhood Association**  
Contact: Susan Nutter, 285-8484  
Mailing Address: 78 Harper St., San Francisco, CA 94131  
Meetings: Held periodically at Upper Noe Recreation Center, Day & Sanchez, 7 p.m.

**Friends of Glen Canyon Park**  
Contact: Richard Craib, 648-0862  
Mailing Address: 140 Turquoise Way, San Francisco, CA 94131  
Meetings: Third Wednesday of the month, Glen Park Recreation Center, 7:30 p.m.

**Friends of Noe Valley**  
Contact: Dave Monks, 821-4087  
Mailing Address: 167 Valley St., San Francisco, CA 94131  
Meetings: Second Thursday of month, Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St., 7:30 p.m.

**La Leche League of San Francisco**  
Contact: Abi, 282-1937  
Meetings: First Tuesday of month, Bernal Heights Library (downstairs), Cortland & Moultrie, 11 a.m.

**Liberty Hill Neighborhood Association**  
Contact: Katherine Pietrycha, president: [Katherine.Pietrycha@wcom.com](mailto:Katherine.Pietrycha@wcom.com)  
Mailing Address: 3288 21st St., Box 44, San Francisco, CA 94110  
Meetings: Executive board meets first Tuesday of month; general meetings quarterly. Call for details.

**Noe Courts Coalition**  
Contact: Dr. Tom Mills, secretary.  
Voicemail: 675-0110; [nichapin@aol.com](mailto:nichapin@aol.com).  
Mailing Address: Noe Courts Coalition, P.O. Box 460520, San Francisco, CA 94146  
Meetings: Irregular. Call for information.

**Noe Valley Democratic Club**  
Contact: Ian Selden, 821-4194  
Mailing Address: 811 Diamond St. #4, San Francisco, CA 94114  
Meetings: Second Wednesday of month, 7:30 p.m. Call for location.


**Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association**  
Contact: Robert Roddick, 641-8692  
Mailing Address: Robert T. Roddick, Noe Valley Law Offices, P.O. Box 460574, San Francisco, CA 94114-6003  
Meetings: Last Wednesday of month, Bank of America, 24th & Castro, 9 a.m.

**Noe Valley Neighborhood Parks Improvement Association**  
Contact: Debra Niemann, 641-4934, or Krista Keegan, 550-9050  
Mailing Address: 4171 23rd St., San Francisco, CA 94114  
Meetings: Held periodically. Call for details.

**Outer Noe Valley Merchants**  
Contact: Jim Appenrodt, 641-1500  
Mailing Address: 294 29th St., San Francisco, CA 94131  
Meetings: First Monday of month, St. Paul's Church cafeteria, 3 p.m. Call to confirm.

**Upper Noe Neighbors**  
Contact: Vicki Rosen, 285-0473  
Mailing Address: 169 Valley St., San Francisco, CA 94131  
Meetings: Fourth Thursday of month, Upper Noe Rec Center, Day & Sanchez, 7:30 p.m.






# RX

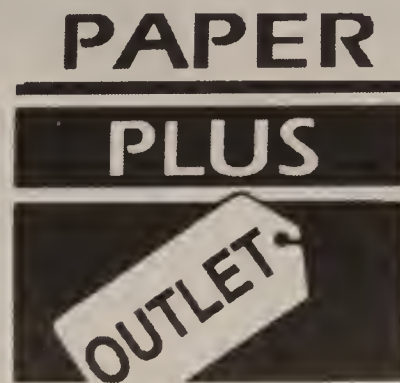
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**House for Rent—Short Term.** Noe Valley home: furnished, three to four bedrooms, three full baths, two-car garage, with lovely garden. Available July 8 to Aug. 26, 2001. E-mail [bobw@medicine.ucsf.edu](mailto:bobw@medicine.ucsf.edu).

**Get Involved—Volunteer** at the Glen Park Festival, April 29. Call Lina at 585-7822.

**Horse for Lease.** Good trail and arena horse for lease in Golden Gate Park. Nice over fences. Experienced rider needed. Call Susan, 707-829-3600.

**Pursue Your Passion** and still enjoy working. Part-time administrative position in Noe Valley. Pleasant, professional office. Must be computer proficient. Flexible hours. Competitive compensation. Deborah, 864-2248.

**How About a Hawaii House Exchange**, mid-June, for a week or two? Also willing to rent. 282-8983.

**One Year Rental:** Light, spacious, remodeled studio; tree view, hardwood, furnished/unfurnished. Garage available. 285-5122.



**Vegetarian Cooking Class:** Quick and easy yogic recipes. For people who want to learn how to cook nutritious, simple, quick, and tasty vegetarian meals. The students will learn recipes, cook with the instructor and other students, and enjoy the meal together. Recipes will be given out. Please register five days in advance. Sunday, March 11, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. \$35. Integral Yoga Institute, 770 Dolores Street. 415-821-1117.

**Five Element Acupuncture** heals psyche and soma for health and happiness. Located in Noe Valley. Jennifer Frame, L.Ac. 282-4407.

**Spain.** Facing the Mediterranean, wonderful apartment at the beach; two bedrooms, two baths. Great local life around. Public transportation. \$250 per week. Call 415-285-2093, or fax 415-285-7335.

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**Southern France Apartment** in old country house. Furnished for three to five persons, \$275 per week, less longer. Phone/fax 01133-4-75-53-56-21. E-mail [lagrangeblanche@hotmail.com](mailto:lagrangeblanche@hotmail.com).

**Office to Share.** Sunny, plant-filled office in suite to share with therapist. Time available immediately, all day Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, and Sunday. Mornings Monday and Wednesday. Call Carla, 255-6394; leave message.

**Handyman/Electrician.** Yellow Dog Electric does troubleshooting and small installations. State requires no license for jobs under \$500. 15 years experience. 415-820-3905.



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**CLASS ADS**

*The deadline is the 15th of the month*

## CLAS ADS

**Vacation Rental Near Glen Park** and BART. Cozy, three-bedroom house with lovely garden. Available June 11 to July 2, 2001. Christine, 415-586-0642.

**To the Point Acupuncture.** California licensed acupuncturist offering acupressure, acupuncture, Oriental massage, and herbal medicine. Office appointments or house calls available. Call 415-550-6923.

**Carpentry.** Design bathrooms, decks, kitchens, add-ons, stairs. We're experts with 20 years of experience. Great references. Call Jeffrey, a local resident, at 753-1707.

**Vacation Retreat for Noe Valleyans.** Calistoga/St. Helena area. Three bedrooms, two baths, sleeps six (maximum); large decks with views of stream, woods, and meadow. Fireplace with wood supplied; 30 acres, trails, all-year stream, ornamental fish pond. Dogs okay. One week minimum (\$500). May rent additional nights at \$70 per night or by the month at \$1,750. Discount given to repeat guests. 415-647-3052 (phone and fax).

**Need an Extra Bedroom/Bath** for visiting relatives or friends? Rent ours. No frills. Low cost. 282-2550.

**I'll Drive You** grocery shopping, medical appointments, or other San Francisco errands. Very dependable, friendly; outstanding references. \$15 per hour (two-hour minimum). Bill, 826-3613.

**Bhagavad Gita—The Song of God.** In this six-week course we will study the scriptures of the Bhagavad Gita, with emphasis on how to apply the spiritual principles to daily life. Required text: *Living Gita*, commentary by Sri Swami Satchidananda. Please register five days in advance. Six Mondays beginning March 19, 6 to 7:30 p.m. \$48. Integral Yoga Institute, 770 Dolores Street. 415-821-1117.

**Space Available in Noe Valley Healing Center.** Suitable for bodywork, acupuncture, small groups. Day/month rental. Full reception service, kitchen, bathroom, and laundry. Contact Virginia at 415-642-9249.

**Need a House/Pet Sitter?** Mature, responsible, professional housesitter available to care for your home, pets, garden, mail, and phone while you're away. Love all animals, long dog walks, brushing and entertaining your animal family who have to stay home while you go away. Five-star references. Pamela, 415-279-8376.



**House Cleaning.** Looking for a good one, call Sergio at 415-681-8413 or 415-244-5195. References and excellent prices.

**Join Our Support Group.** As we age, our mind and body waste away. We need caretakers to feed us, bathe us, dress us, and help us walk. Weight training, stretching, aerobics, maintaining our proper weight, proper diet, and vitamin supplements, along with exercising our mind, are methods used to maintain our independence and youthfulness. Don't wait until it's too late! 415-668-8310.

**Roofing Ad.** 20 years experience patching, re-roofing, gutters, all kinds of roofs, either industrial, commercial, or residential. Call my phone, 415-978-9375.

**Therapeutic Massage.** Pamper yourself. Swedish or Deep Tissue. Non-sexual. First appointment only \$35 (\$45 for outcalls). Gift certificates available. Call Jamine, 415-305-7250.

**Home and Apartment Cleaning.** Excellent references and prices. Offering service seven days a week. For more details, call Maria, 415-841-9875.

**Math Tutoring.** All levels. Get professional, one-on-one instruction from a full-time tutor with years of experience. Middle, high school, college math. SSAT, SAT, GRE—verbal and math. Very patient. Excellent references from students at San Francisco's top private schools. David Freeling, M.A., B.A., Columbia University. 415-285-0574.

**Pet Care.** Does Rover need a pet sitter? Exercise? A ride to the vet? Positively Pets can help! Expert care for all pets. Ten years experience. Bonded. References. Senior discounts. 647-2463.

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**Charlie the Phone Guy:** Residence, business, home office telephone wiring. Fax/modem lines, DSL, Ethernet, too! Dead jacks brought back to life! Separate jacks for roommates. On time appointments! Free estimates. Noe Valley resident. Call 641-8654. E-mail [sfphoneguy@aol.com](mailto:sfphoneguy@aol.com).

**Carpentry.** Fine finish work, repairs, remodeling. Stairs, custom-designed decks and fences. Thirty years experience; local references. Call John Shinnick at 650-992-7107.

**Adriano Hauling and Cleaning.** Garage, patio, house, and much more! Call 415-990-4062 or 650-991-1049.



**Deep Relaxation Workshop.** Stress can become a way of life when the body and mind develop patterns around it. Learn how to use deep relaxation in creative ways to release physical and mental tension, break patterns of stress, and conserve energy in your daily life. Tuesday, March 20, 6 to 7:30 p.m. \$8. Integral Yoga Institute, 770 Dolores Street. 415-821-1117.

**We Solve the Mystery** of remodeling and home repair. Mystery Carpentry provides quality work at reasonable prices. Free estimates. License #731187. Call Dan at 415-242-9042.

**Celtic Shamanistic Massage,** integrating barefoot Shiatsu, Thai, acupressure. 24th and Sanchez, Noe Valley. 970-8220.

**Are You Experiencing Challenges** in your relationships? I work with couples and individuals to assist them in transforming what blocks them from achieving more satisfaction and vitality in their relationships. Grounded and compassionate psychotherapy. Chris Kughn, M.F.T. license #MFC 37183. Noe Valley office. Call 415-257-0995.

**Integral Yoga Teacher Training.** Starts March, 2001, for 12 weeks. Graduates receive a certificate to teach Beginner Hatha Yoga. This comprehensive course also offers a chance for you to deepen your own practice, have a healthier body, and develop a greater sense of your inner self. Please call Jivana Heyman, ext. 375, at the Integral Yoga Institute, 770 Dolores Street. 415-821-1117.

**Weight Management Coaching.** Can't lose weight? Lose, only to re-gain? Why not try something different. Let's talk. Diana Murphy, M.F.T. (M.F.C. 32704) 415-681-1767.

**Stressless Housecleaning...**because life's hectic enough. Superior quality. Customized cleaning. Free estimates. Call Jeanine, 564-2877.

**Piano Lessons.** Kids are my specialty, but adults welcome! Noe Valley-based musician, with B.A. and M.M. in music and pedagogy, accepting students. 15 years experience. Carla, 415-648-3651.

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**Hot Flash! Midlife Women's Groups** in Noe Valley. Meet with women your age, supporting each other through the struggles, challenges, and joys of midlife. We are trailblazers and elders-in-training, redefining what aging means to us. Arlene Dumas, L.C.S.W. 415-641-4553.

**Bed and Breakfast "Cottage Gate."** Comfortable, charming studio apartment; queen bed, kitchenette, breakfast choices provided, phone, private bath, security gate, level private entrance. Located at 20th and Douglass. 415-626-6497.

**Pranayama and Meditation.** Learn meditation and breathing practices. There will be step-by-step instruction for beginners. We will examine the theories behind these ancient sciences and discuss the obstacles faced when establishing a regular practice. Discover improved quality of life, higher standard of health, better clarity and dynamism of your mind, and peace. Please register five days in advance. Six Tuesdays beginning March 20, 6 to 7:30 p.m. \$48. Integral Yoga Institute, 770 Dolores Street. 415-821-1117.

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**Handyman/Carpenter.** Hang a door, repair or replace a fence, install cabinets, build a deck, even trim a tree. I have many years of experience, do good work at a reasonable rate. Robert, 566-3389

**Eureka—Noe Valley Studio,** short-term. 415-826-1158.

**Flute Lessons.** Noe Valley-based flutist with B.A. and M.M. in music and pedagogy, accepting beginning to advanced students of all ages and levels. 15 years experience. Carla, 415-648-3651.

**Affordable Noe Valley Office.** Fully furnished, prime 24th Street location. Perfect for psychotherapy, writers, and massage. Available Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. Call 821-7517.

**Allergy Elimination with NAET** (allergy testing and desensitization), plus enzyme therapy, acupuncture, and herbs. Many health conditions like headaches, depression, sinus infections, excess weight, skin conditions, mood swings, indigestion, addiction, etc., are results of sensitivities to various elements in our food and environment. Call for more information: Dasha Trebichavska, M.S., L.Ac. at 415-641-9733.

**Handier Andy.** Home repairs, carpentry, decks, fences, sheetrock, ceramic tile, painting. 564-1175.

**Spare Room?** \$460 per week for hosting and tutoring (English) foreign students. Rita, 648-1083.

**Office Support Plus.** Businesses, home offices. Data entry, mailings. 415-239-0561.

**Telecommunications Wiring.** Telephone, computer, co-ax, speaker, intercom. Home or business. Experienced, reasonable, reliable. Kent, 415-401-0214.

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**Upholstery in Noe Valley!** Free estimates, pickup, and delivery. Quality recovering of sofas, stuffed chairs, and dining chairs, at reasonable rates. Call Jorge Meraz-Baca, 282-2256.

**All Things Macintosh:** Internet making you crazy? Troubleshooter for hire! Solve mysterious freezes. Improve performance. Software support, tutoring. References. Roslyn, 510-526-1209.

**A Yogic Diet Workshop.** The principles and benefits of a yogic diet will be presented, including how to transition from a meat-based diet, we are what we eat, fasting, and practical tips for making changes to a more yogic way of eating. Wednesday, March 7, 6 to 8 p.m. \$10. Integral Yoga Institute, 770 Dolores Street. 415-821-1117.

**Start Your Healing Journey.** Gentle, practical, individual and couples therapy by experienced Marriage and Family Therapist. Sliding scale. Free 15-minute phone consultation. Lesbian/gay/bi/straight welcome. Noe Valley. Julie DePinna Armer, M.A., M.F.C. lic. #36609. Call 415-882-1161.

**Quaint "Victorian Garden" B&B** near 26th and Sanchez. Private and ground level, living room, fireplace, bathroom, bedroom with queen-size bed, office nook, flower-filled patio/garden, laundry facilities, phone, sound system, cable TV, plentiful breakfast items. Apartment is lovely and quiet. Two-night minimum. Call 206-0202.



**PC/Mac/iMac Computer? Need Help?** I can... help you clean up your computer, get your computer talking to your printer and modem, set up email and the web, etc. I'm the tech coordinator at an elementary school. Done in your home. 642-8287.

**Furniture Wanted.** I need old and antique dressers, tables, desks, etc. Any condition. Paying cash. Estimates also. Karen, 415-647-6157.

**House Cleaning, Five Days a Week.** We clean homes, offices, and apartments. We are reasonably priced, responsible, experienced, and we have excellent references. Please call Rejane, 415-753-0160.



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**Cash for Old Wood Furniture,** antiques, and old things. Jim at 621-4390 or 585-1901, evenings.

**Get Organized!** Spring is a great time to create a clutter-free home and/or office. Have a place for everything! Call Susan Bloch. Member National Association of Professional Organizers. 282-0218.

**Home and Office Cleaning.** Excellent references, thorough, reliable, and professional. Reasonably priced. For more details call Gleide, 415-586-5465.

**Architect.** New buildings, remodels, additions. Very good record getting city approvals for projects. Innovative design and traditional (Victorian) design. On-site consultation on any project. Reasonable fees. Licensed architect for over 23 years. In Noe Valley since 1981. Call Michael Hager at 415-285-7409.

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**Vacation Room Rental,** Upper Noe Valley. Clean, safe, comfortable. Ideal for visiting family. Sue, 415-821-4890 or [emarsh5108@aol.com](mailto:emarsh5108@aol.com).

**Newspaper Distributor Needed!** Part-time salaried work for a strong, reliable individual to help get the tabloid size but weighty with news *Noe Valley Voice* out into the store and businesses of our neighborhood. Forays into Bernal, Glen, Mission, and Castro may be required. Call Steve at 415-239-1114.



**Meditation Workshop.** This is a practical workshop that will enable students to begin earnest meditation on their own. A clear understanding of what meditation is, how it works, and how to make it an enjoyable daily experience will be presented. Suitable for both beginners and experienced meditators who want to be inspired. Tuesday, March 13, 6 to 7:30 p.m. \$8. Integral Yoga Institute, 770 Dolores Street. 415-821-1117.

**Trees, Shrubs, Hedges.** Professional arborist, neighborhood resident. Twenty-plus years of experience. Free estimates, reasonable rates. Call with any garden questions. Bill Squire, 826-6160.

**Home and Office Cleaning.** Excellent references, professional. Offering reasonable prices. Service seven days a week. For more details, call Ellen Santana, 415-565-7168.

**Are Old Traumas Keeping You Stuck** in feelings of anxiety or depression? Are you struggling with intimacy in relationships? Recovery from traumas, such as childhood abuse or sexual assault allows you to move forward in life and achieve your goals. Compassionate psychotherapy transforms old wounds. E.M.D.R. Sliding scale. Noe Valley. Liz Stolz Kughn, M.F.T. #36942. Call 415-721-4555.

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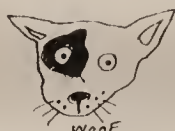
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The next *Noe Valley Voice* will be the April 2001 issue, distributed in Noe Valley on March 29. **THE DEADLINE FOR CLASS ADS IS MARCH 15, 2001.**

Sorry, the *Voice* is unable to accept Class Ads by phone or e-mail at this time. However, there's one consolation: The ads are displayed on our web site free of charge. Go to [www.noevalleyvoice.com](http://www.noevalleyvoice.com).

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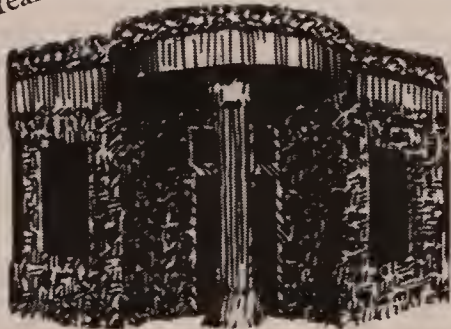
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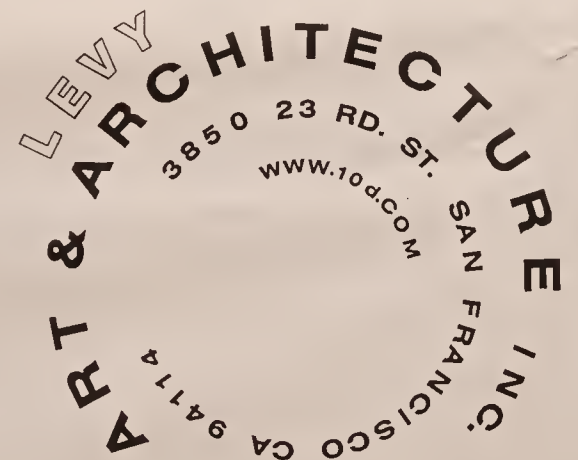
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## and now for the RUMORS behind the news

### Auf Wiedersehen to Speckmann's

By Mazook

BIG NEWS in the neighborhood is the imminent closing of Speckmann's German Deli, Bierstube, and Restaurant, which has been a very popular eatery on the corner of Church and Duncan streets for four decades, since 1962.

The last supper will be served by owners Ebby and Peter Ullmann on April 27, 2001. The next day, the Ullmanns have vowed they will retire.

But neighborhood patrons are still in a schnitzel about their plans to call it quits. Peter and Ebby started telling their regular customers last October.

"We told them that we were just plain tired and getting too old to work 12 to 16 hours a day, seven days a week," says Ebby, who will be turning 68.

She notes that they originally planned to close Dec. 31, 2000, and had put the building and business up for sale with a price tag of \$1.5 million.

"Our customers got mad and told us that we couldn't close," Ebby says. "Some said, 'How can you do that to us?' Others were so sad. One family told me that they had come here for 30 years, and another customer even started crying in the deli when I told her the news. 'Where am I going to get my bread?' she cried. And so I started to feel sorry and guilty."

The pressure from customers, coupled with a weakening real estate market, was strong enough to convince Ebby and Peter to postpone their retirement for a few months. They also closed the restaurant on Mondays and Tuesdays.

But alas, "no more," Ebby pleads, "or I'll end up crawling around the restaurant in my old age.... I need a rest."

She says a lot of prospective buyers have looked at the place, including "people who wanted to put in Chinese food, Greek food, Mrs. Field's Cookies, and even Starbucks."

But still no sale. Ebby says she's dropped the price down to \$1.2 million and although she is considering some offers, the place is still on the market.

Many neighbors are hoping that a Ger-



man restaurateur will take over the business and keep the tradition alive. Ebby and Peter say they will happily stay on for a while and teach the buyers the business and provide the recipes that have kept 'em coming back for more.

For you history buffs, Hans Speckmann came to Noe Valley from Germany circa 1961. A year later, he opened a German specialty store at its present location.

Back then, the blocks around Speckmann's were filled with German and Irish families. (Oh, how the demographics have changed.) Soon Hans was serving *Kalte Platten* dishes (cold cuts) in the back room of the shop. In 1965, Hans built a kitchen and started serving hot food.

According to Ebby, "Hans Speckmann sold the place to Mr. and Mrs. Weaver in 1969, and we took over in 1974."

I know that hope springs eternal, and many of you can't believe Speckmann's will really close, but you better bet that the last loaf of Bavarian bread will be sold soon after 10 a.m. at the deli and the final wiener schnitzel (the most popular dish) will be served in the restaurant shortly before 10 p.m. on April 27, so make your reservations to *essen* soon.

Ebby wants all the deli regulars to know that Drewes Market is going to start carrying the Saag Company sausages, and she is sure that one or more of the local markets will carry loaves from the Bavarian Bread Company. Also, many German specialty items might still be found across the street at Lehr's. Maybe Mr. Lehr can put a cooler in the back and open up a counter out front, and start doing what Hans Speckmann did back in '62.

HAIR TODAY... After many moons on the market, the building at the corner of Church and 25th streets, where J&S Barber Shop is now, has been sold (at a price

of \$576,000, reportedly). Naturally, the longtime tenants, some of whom are elderly, are concerned about what's in store for them. The barbershop has been on the corner for about the same 40 years as Speckmann's, for the last 12 years as J&S.

Rumors are running rampant that the new buyers want to open a Chinese restaurant on the premises. How can this be possible? The minuscule barbershop space would be appropriate for dim sum platters maybe, or carry-out only.

Anyway, haircutter Stephanie Holstein, the "S" in J&S, says the barbers have no plans to leave, and what's more, they have a few years left on their lease.

Her dad, Mike Skoufas, who also has a barber chair at J&S and has been trimming the locks of Noe Valley since 1953, is taking things in stride. "We'll just have to see what happens," says Mike calmly.

☎ ☎ ☎

STAY...JUST A LITTLE BIT LONGER: Paper Plus, which sells discounted cards, wrapping paper, ribbons, and party doo-dads on Castro Street (next to Walgreen's), will remain open for a while yet,

on a month-to-month basis.

Apparently, enough folks threw the "you can't go" tantrums to persuade Paper Plus to delay its planned Feb. 28 closing. But according to Paper Plus manager Penny Brill, this is just a postponement of the inevitable. "We will be staying here for a while, but eventually we will be moving back to our Berkeley store." Penny thinks that there is a possibility that someone might come along and operate the store and sell the same merchandise. Good luck with that idea.

It looks as if Star Bakery will be around to celebrate their 112th, and probably last, Saint Patrick's Day.

There were reports late last year that Star's building was sold and the new owners planned to restore it to its 1888 charm. That left Star on a month-to-month basis.

The bakery, on the corner of Church and 29th since 1889, is famous for its Irish soda bread. Loaves will be available on St. Pat's again this year, although now they are baked elsewhere and trucked in.

But pretty reliable sources say that by

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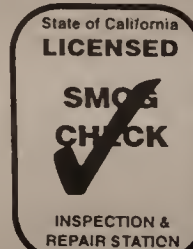
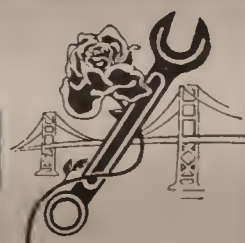
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# RUMORS

*Continued from Previous Page*

summertime, the livin' won't be easy, the fish won't be jumpin', and the bismarks and crullers will be gone. Star will probably close in June.

That will leave only two stores on the block dating from 1888–89, Drewes Meat Market (now called the Drewes Brothers) and Stellings Market. Or maybe I should say one and a half stores. Stellings used to be on the corner, but it moved into Drewes' space several years ago, and the corner store became a Thai restaurant (and a good one, at that).

And in further Church Street ch-ch-changes, after 27 years Larry Johnson will close down his little store on Church near Day called Antiques and Things, which specialized in antique toys.

"Most of our business is in New York and Los Angeles, and we receive no support locally," Larry says he will continue the business by selling at antique and collectibles shows around the country.

The space has already been leased—as an office.



HE FINALLY DUNIT: This blood-curdling news just in via e-mail from Bruce Taylor, owner of the San Francisco Mystery Bookstore, at 24th and Diamond: "I have sold the San Francisco Mystery Bookstore. After 25 years, it is time—to paraphrase JFK—to pass the torch to a new generation. The new owner is a woman named Diane Kudisch.... The store will remain the San Francisco Mystery Bookstore, and while its focus may shift slightly to reflect Diane's tastes and preferences, no big changes are forthcoming. It will still be the best place to find mysteries—

both in and out of print—on the planet."

Bruce went on to announce that his last day would be April 1 (oh sure, Sherlock—April Fool's Day) and that he would be hosting a party at the store from noon to 5 p.m., featuring free food and drink. "I am also going to do something I have steadfastly avoided for 25 years," he added mysteriously. "We are going to have a sale. All secondhand books in the store will be 1/2 the marked price for one day only. Hope to see you there. It has been a wonderful ride and a wonderful run, and I wouldn't trade the experience for anything—but I'm off to Italy to test out this retirement thing. If it doesn't work out..." Wait a minute, I think I remember reading that one....



CASTRO/NOE VALLEY NATIVE Noe Venable has been nominated by the California Music Awards (formerly the Bay Area Music Awards, aka the Bammies) for this year's "Outstanding Female Vocalist." The awards will be given out April 28 at Oakland's Henry Kaiser Center (tickets: 925-934-3700).

Venable, now 24, grew up on Diamond Street, in "Diamond Depths," as her family calls it. Around the time of her birth, Noe's parents thought they'd be forced to leave California soon. They decided to name their daughter after the neighborhood they loved, so she'd always have a strong connection to her birthplace. It turned out they never left. And Noe is reminded of her roots every day.

Her acoustic group, the Noe Venable Trio, played an incredible concert in last year's Noe Valley Music Series. In the trio, Noe plays guitar and sings all-original songs, some with very arresting lyrics. Her other two-thirds are violinist Alan Lin and bass player Todd Sickafoose, well-known musicians in their own right. Noe also performs with her "louder [rock]

band," the Ruiners.

She responded to the *Voice* e-congratulations and the question *How does it feel to be nominated for a Bammie?* with the e-reply: "Like a guppy. Like a very small guppy who got plunked into a pond of shimmering rainbow trout. I feel honored."

Noe continued, "I always want to be classified as 'human' before 'woman,' so when I first heard about the nomination, I harbored a secret little hope that it wouldn't be in a woman-specific category. But when I saw the list of the other nominees...I felt honored. Victoria Williams, Tracy Chapman, Aimee Mann, and Noelle Hampton are four women who I consider to have immense depth and integrity, and it's an honor to be mentioned in the same breath."

Her latest album with the trio is *Down Easy*. It's e-available at *Amazon.com*, if not at your local record store (Streetlight).



THE NOE VALLEY MUSIC SERIES was one of the venues for last month's San Francisco Bluegrass & Old-Time Festival. The concerts were a total smash and sell-out, with people perching wherever they could to see headliners Peter Rowan, the Kathy Kallick Band, and a reunion of the Any Old Time String Band.

For those of you who didn't attend (I couldn't get a dagblammed ticket), eyewitness reports were that there were tons of young people as well as many of us old hippies in head-bobbing rapture. Looks like another folk revival to me.

It is also noteworthy that this month marks the Noe Valley Music Series' 20th anniversary of bringing great music to our valley. Director Larry Kassin should get some kind of award for putting this series together, year in and year out.

There will be a special anniversary celebration on March 10, with the Manning/Kassin/Darter trio performing their brand

of avant-classical jazz. Another hot ticket is the March 24 gig of rock and roll hall-of-famer Ray Manzarek, with Beat poet Michael McClure. If you're not an old hippie, you might not know that keyboardist Manzarek started the Doors along with Jim Morrison. Better get tickets for both those concerts right now.



LIKETHENOEVALLEYMUSIC Series, Mazook is celebrating his 20th year of writing Rumors. It was March of 1981 that I started this rumor-mongering thing. Back then, I was reporting that Herb's Fine Foods had inaugurated a suggestion box, the "Sounds of Noe Valley" were being featured on Radio Station KYUU, Cameo Coffee (where Savor is now) had extended its hours, and the James Company was making stuffed animals on Church Street. I also revealed that the Acme Cafe had just reopened after a remodel and the price of hamburgers had gone up 65 cents, from \$1.85 to \$2.50.

I guess nothing changes except the prices...and everything else. The *Noe Valley Voice*, however, is still free. So that's all, you all. And, by the way, what are the sounds of Noe Valley? □

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## A Mom by the Book

BY ADAIR LARA

*When Adair Lara's daughter Morgan turned 13, she was transformed, seemingly overnight, from a sweet, loving child into a secretive, moody teenager who would neither listen nor take direction. For the next five years, Lara, her son Patrick, her ex-husband Jim, and her new husband Bill shared a roller-coaster ride in which Morgan incarnated the chaos principle in torn jeans and dyed hair. Lara has just published a memoir, *Hold Me Close, Let Me Go*, which recounts how mother, daughter, and family survived. An excerpt follows.*

I KNEW WHAT KIND of teenager my daughter Morgan would be: Outgoing, devoted to her mom. Then pulling out of the drive, an Ivy League scarf wrapped around her neck, waving a tearful goodbye as she went off to college.

She would be a good kid because I was a good mom, and had worked so hard to make her a fine person. It was part of my identity.

Then Morgan turned 13. Not only was I not the mother of a good kid. I was the mother of a kid who seemed to be methodically working her way down a list of teenage transgressions: Cheated in school, check. Sneaked out, check. Screamed, yelled, sulked, was mean to her little brother, check.

She burst into tears when I said hiring a hall for her birthday was out of the question, and did it again when I said no to her getting her own apartment. If I was the factory, this was my product. And a shoddy piece of work it looked to be.

I thought if I just knew more, knew better how to handle 13-year-old Morgan, then she would be reasonable and happy. I bought half a dozen books on raising teenagers and sat with them out on the front steps, doing what I had done all my life when at a loss: reading, thumbing through books.

THE MANUAL *Between Parent and Child* said you're supposed to mirror your children's feelings back to them. When a kid comes home depressed because he didn't get the babysitting job he wanted, the father is supposed to say something like, "You must feel really disappointed."

I cringed, reading this. If I said, "Morgan, I hear that you are angry," she'd say, "Mom, I hear that you've been reading your parenting books again."

But when I tried it, it worked. One Sunday morning, Patrick complained that Morgan wouldn't let him borrow the black basketball that had come with her Nike watch.

"You always borrow my clothes and my basketball, and you never appreciate it," she screamed at him. "I don't want you to borrow anything of mine again, ever." She grabbed the ball from him and headed for her room.

Instead of saying, "Oh, Morgan, you know you never use the basketball yourself," as I usually would, I said, "Patrick, Morgan needs to know that you appreciate it when she lends you her things."

Both kids seemed to hold their breath for a minute. Then Patrick gave his sister a token shove and went off without the ball, but she smiled at me. And actually put her dirty plate in the sink.

Encouraged, I went back to my books, going through the advice with a yellow highlighter while my work piled up next to my computer. "THE MORE SHE LOVES YOU, THE WORSE THE REBELLION AS SHE STRUGGLES FOR INDEPENDENCE," said one book. "THE MORE SHE FEELS LOVED, THE FREER SHE'LL FEEL TO BE OBNOXIOUS."

Morgan must have felt loved to death, I thought.

"IT IS WITH GIRLS, NOT WITH BOYS, THAT PARENTS EXPERIENCE THE SUPREME DISRUPTION OF ADOLESCENCE," said a book called *Get Out of My Life, But First Could You Drive Cheryl and Me to the Mall?* "SWEET COOPERATIVE DAUGHTERS TURN, OFTEN RATHER SUDDENLY, INTO HYSTERICAL, SHRIEKING MONSTERS."

This, too, was cheerful reading. How could her metamorphosis into a Gorgon-headed changeling be my fault—or her fault—if I could read it in a book?

ONE BOOK ADVISED ME to separate incidents into Her Problem and My Problem. My problems included keeping her safe, providing for her needs, and making sure she felt loved even when we couldn't stand her.

One night I knew she had a Spanish test the next day, but she'd been on the phone for hours. I was snapping pencils at my desk, so I asked her to get off the phone.

"I don't like to see you on it," I said.

She said, "That's your problem, Mom. Deal with it."

And she hadn't even read the book.

I learned that good moms are firm. Good moms say, "No, you may not take 10 minutes out of your homework period to watch MTV. No, you cannot stay at school for song girl tryouts even though that's suddenly always been your dream and tryouts are today only and you hate me, I'm a peeface."



*All the advice I was getting was good. The trouble was that the person—me—who was trying to take in all the advice was a harried, nervous, shivering wreck. Morgan was the tornado, and I was the trailer park in her path.*

*Between Parent and Teenager* said never make blanket statements to your kids, telling them they always do this, or they never do that. I marked the passage for her dad to read.

"This is typical of you, Jim," I said in a yellow Post-it. "You always do this."

When I wasn't reading books, I was listening to anyone and everyone.

"All you have to teach her, you have already taught her," a woman in the line at the bank told me, patting my arm, when I started gabbling to her about the hell child I had at home. I tried desperately to remember something, anything that I had taught her, besides an appreciation for red licorice and all the words to "Last Kiss."

All the advice I was getting was good. The trouble was that the person—me—who was trying to take in all the advice was a harried, nervous, shivering wreck. Morgan was the tornado, and I was the trailer park in her path.

One morning I barged into her room as she was getting ready for school. The day before, she had hung up on me

and come home 15 minutes late. Wanting to take the advice of the book and not wanting another unpleasant evening, I said nothing. We all had Bill's baked chicken together, and I let her spend two hours on the phone even though I knew she had algebra homework.

I was fine. She was fine. Until the next morning.

"You left your wet towels on the floor in my room when you were in there swiping my black sweater this morning," I snapped, and then caught myself.

"It's hard to remember everything when you're rushing around in the morning," I said.

I tried to go on. But what came out instead was: "And you didn't get your algebra done last night."

Morgan blinked in surprise. Hurt, she left for school again without saying goodbye. I heard the door slam.

BOOKS TELL YOU what teenagers are going to do. What they don't tell you is how you will feel. If our home life had been a novel, Morgan would be the man whose feelings had turned cold, and I would be the spurned girlfriend waiting by the phone, the one as much in love as ever.

And I was scared. It was the worst period of my life to calmly and humorously put parenting advice into practice, to laugh when my heart was cracking. I was like a friend I knew with a back injury, who toward the end would lie face-down on her hospital bed, her gown hiked up in back, and scream if the doctor touched her back, even when he did it with a feather.

All the time now, I found myself screaming at feathers.

Not having control was an awful feeling. When she talked on the phone for hours, and I knew she had a math test the next day, I was not enraged because she was in danger of not knowing any math. I was enraged because she wasn't minding me, because she was standing in my house and not doing what I wanted her to do.

Sometimes the books advised me to use humor. "DON'T GIVE THEM THE REACTIONS THEY'RE AFTER," they said.

It struck me that my sense of humor had been the first thing to go. Where was the mom who used to drop on all fours? All of a sudden, parenting had become deadly serious.

One night she'd been on the phone for two hours, dressed in ragged cutoffs and a tank top, lying atop her cluttered bed like a shipwrecked passenger on a raft.

"I did not tell anybody that sophomores could kiss my ass," I heard her say heatedly. "I do NOT want a hug," she said next. Then: "I like you as a friend," she said. "I want you to respect my boundaries."

I picked up the extension.

"If you don't get off the phone, I'm going to sing 'Tie a Yellow Ribbon Round the Old Oak Tree' into it," I said.

And we did, Bill and I, warbling off key into the phone, "Tie a yellow ribbon round the old oak tre-e-ee," while the dog barked crazily. Morgan laughed—and got off the phone. ■

*Adair Lara is a San Francisco Chronicle columnist and the author of five books, including *Welcome to Earth, Mom* and *The Best of Adair Lara*. Her articles and essays have appeared in numerous national magazines, including *Redbook*, *Ladies' Home Journal*, and *Parenting*. Lara and husband Bill can frequently be found sipping espresso on the bench in front of *Martha & Brothers Coffee* on 24th Street. Daughter Morgan has just graduated from the University of California at Santa Cruz.*

*Excerpt from *Hold Me Close, Let Me Go: A Mother, a Daughter, and an Adolescence Survived* (Broadway Books) and photo (by Deborah Feingold) reprinted by permission of Adair Lara.*

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